



Ambulance will only be sent if medically necessary

FREE HOSPITAL TRAVEL DENIED

Report by Richard Guttridge

ELDERLY people in Dudley in receipt of mobility allowance are being told they will no longer be given free transport to hospital.

Several patients have raised concerns since patient-care company NSL took over the running of the service from Ambuline. Some say they cannot book an ambulance to collect them from their homes anymore.

Bosses at NSL say there has been no change in criteria as patients in receipt of mobility allowance have never been entitled to free non-urgent transport to Russells Hall Hospital. Access in Dudley, which champions the rights of disabled people, said NSL was enforcing criteria that had never been enforced before. The group estimated that there were thousands in Dudley receiving mobility allowance.

NSL now offers the transport service for those who have a medical need only.

Access in Dudley chairman Tina Boothroyd said: "If you get the mobility element of the disability allowance, if you tick yes, that doesn't qualify you for hospital transport. This has never been a problem before and I know people who have travelled on hospital transport for 16 years and have never been asked."

The mobility allowance is paid to people who have difficulty walking, through physical disabilities or other conditions. Those in receipt of this funding are expected to use it to help them get to hospital appointments. But many find it difficult to use public transport or taxis.

Stressful

A woman from Kingswinford, who asked not to be named, said: "I have been using the service for eight years and have never been asked the question of whether I am eligible."

"It's very stressful and means I can't get to my appointment. It's not about money. It is embarrassing for me to get on a bus or in a taxi."

Mrs Boothroyd said she had taken several calls from concerned people. "This is going to upset a lot of people," she said. "People with disabilities who have regular hospital appointments use the transport because there is no other way to do it."

NSL spokeswoman Afrika Morris said: "In Dudley, the eligibility criteria states that a patient in receipt of mobility benefits is ineligible for transport. However, in some instances, a patient with severe mobility conditions may be eligible for transport. We will be working with the Clinical Commissioning Groups to address these."

MARCHERS MUSTER 200 AT TOWN CENTRE PROTEST



Police keep a watch on the All Football Fans/Firms March Against Islamisation that included 200 in Dudley town centre

WITH pig masks and chants of 'these streets are ours', some 200 All Football Fans/Firms March Against Islamisation protesters made their presence felt in a rain-soaked Dudley town centre.

Waving flags and chanting anti-Muslim slogans, the group came in the third protest this year against plans to build a new mosque in the town. There was a huge police presence with hundreds of officers drafted in at a cost of thousands to the public purse.

But it was a largely peaceful event with only one 33-year-old man arrested on suspicion of assaulting a police officer.

A 50-year-old man was detained to prevent a breach of the peace but later released without charge.

Plans had been for the group to meet at Stafford Street car park but in the pouring rain many decided to find shelter in the town's pubs instead. When they came together, many covering their faces, protesters went in the opposite direction to that planned, away from the town centre.

Carrying English, Welsh and Union Flags, they chanted 'these streets are ours' and 'England Till I Die'. When police officers

attempted to halt their progress some members of the group acted aggressively toward officers but calls for restraint eased tensions.

Earlier, a unity rally by Dudley Unite Against Fascism gathered outside Dudley Council House where speakers including Dudley Council Leader Pete Lowe and Rev Andrew Wickens, of Dudley Interfaith Network, addressed around 50 people.

Councillor Lowe told the crowd: "We need to give them a very clear message. We love Dudley. We respect Dudley. We believe passionately in its diversity."

FIRE

Suspected arson at derelict factory site

ARSONISTS are believed to be behind the latest fire at a derelict factory in Quarry Bank.

Crews were alerted to the blaze at the units in Saltwells Road after smoke was seen coming from the premises at around 5.30pm on Sunday.

There has been a spate of small fires at the factory in recent months, which is thought to be the work of arsonists.

Brierley Hill Fire Station sent eight firefighters to the incident, and five officers also attended from Haden Cross.

CARNIVAL

Major event in late park switch

THE first Halesowen Carnival for almost 30 years is moving location due to concerns over heavy vehicles raised by Dudley Council.

Organisers say the move has cost them around £1,000 for re-printing leaflets, banners and signs for the event.

Huntingtree Park was due to host the revived carnival on July 4. But council officials say pathways in the park would be unsuitable for vehicles. Organisers have had to move the event to nearby Highfields Park.

COLLEGE

Work to start on new crossing in autumn

WORK on a new crossing to help students at Dudley College's £18 million campus negotiate a busy road more safely is due to get under way in the autumn.

The plans were drawn up because of concerns that students at Dudley Evolve could be in danger when they cross The Broadway.

The scheme was originally refused planning permission by Dudley Council following worries from residents about noise and traffic queues.

But a planning inspector backed the college's call for a push-button puffin crossing.

INSIDE

Queen to say arise Sir Lenny



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Mountain of rubbish is to be cleared



Homes to replace mound

EAGERLY awaited plans to replace a mountain of rubbish that has blighted the lives of homeowners in Brierley Hill for years — and replace it with flats — have finally been approved.

The decision ends a nightmare for people living near the heap, which once reached 40ft, at the former Refuse Derived Limited site on Moor Street. The mound has towered over neighbouring properties since 2009.

It was a saga that resulted in High Court action with company director Robert McNaughton even jailed for failing to remove the eyesore in 2013.

But now a total of 94 flats will be built in place of the trash mountain.

Plans submitted by developer J and V Kelly to transform the site were unanimously approved by Dudley Council's planning committee last week.

Councillor John Martin said: "Residents living in Lindsey Place, Moor Street and North Street have suffered what can only be described as a living nightmare facing the huge rubbish mound that has built up. I wholeheartedly support this application."

Councillor Kieran Casey said: "It's clear to see from photos that the site is

a mess and is in desperate need of regeneration and redevelopment. This application goes a long way towards doing that.

"It will deal with the problems on this site once and for all."

Chairman of the planning committee Councillor Qadar Zada was critical that the problems had gone on for so long at the site. He said he was confident approving the plan would bring hope for residents.

He said: "The people of Brierley Hill have suffered unnecessarily and it is time to move forward."

Hundreds are fined over bad parking at stations

MORE than 400 fines of up to £100 have been dished out to motorists for poor parking at railway and Metro stations in the Black Country.

Centro introduced penalties to clampdown on nuisance parking at its park and ride sites last year.

Since the start of December, a total of 407 fines of £100 have been given out to commuters and passengers.

Of these, 202 were handed out at Stourbridge Junction and 128 at Sandwell and Dudley.

There were also 30 issued at Wednesbury Parkway, 28 at Rowley Regis, 13 at Coseley and six at Wolverhampton Priestfield.

Centro decided to take action after complaints about cars obstructing other motorists and forcing pedestrians to walk in the road at stations.

Transport bosses say the scheme is proving successful as the number of fines given out is falling each week. They are reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days.

Centro spokesman Mark Langford said: "While parking notices continue to be issued their numbers are considerably lower than when the scheme was introduced.

Campaign

"We are glad the campaign continues to have the desired effect by making people think about parking more considerably."

Earlier this year, work on a 900,000 extension to the car park at Stourbridge Junction railway station was completed.

An extra 223 spaces have been created, bringing the number to more than 1,000.

The extension followed complaints from passengers about a shortage of spaces at site off Brook Road, Oldswinford.

Bosses said the main car park, off Chawn Hill, often fills up before the end of the morning rush hour.

The new spaces were created on a site located between the Birmingham and Worcester rail track and industrial units on Rufford Road.

Centro and its partners have invested more than £15 million in Park and Ride facilities since 1997 to provide 7,718 free spaces within 59 car parks at a total of 38 rail stations and three Metro tram stops across the region.

A thousand visit Islam exhibition



Councillor Zafar Islam, Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho and Rev Andrew Wickens view a model of an African mosque

MORE than 1,000 people visited an exhibition about Islam, held by Dudley Central Mosque, days before the latest anti-mosque protest came to the town.

The exhibition in Dudley Town Hall about the religion and culture aimed to educate and dispel myths.

The number of visitors to the exhibition trumps the number of protesters in the EDL march in the town in February, around 600, and the 150 who turned out for Britain First in May.

The Bishop of Dudley the Rt Revd Graham Usher said the large number of people who attended the exhibition shows the desire of those in the town to learn more about the faith.

He said: "I think it is really great that the central mosque brought to Dudley a very informative, a very educational, a very well put together exhibition on Islam.

"Members of the local community were welcomed and greeted very well and the organisers were

happy to answer to any questions that visitors had.

"There really was a sense of sharing an understanding of contemporary Islam. There was a real emphasis on a thirst for peace."

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho and Jayne Waltho and Rev Andrew Wickens, chairman of Dudley's Interfaith Network, Dudley North MP Ian Austin and council leader Councillor Pete Lowe were also among civic leaders who attended.

Councillor is saying street has enough places to eat

NO more food outlets are needed in a busy Black Country high street according to a councillor who has spoken out against plans to open a new restaurant in Dudley.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill raised an objection to open the premises on the site of a former wine bar in High Street, Quarry Bank, at a meeting of Dudley Council's planning committee last week.

The Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward councillor also said he was concerned about the impact the restaurant would have on people living nearby.

The restaurant application, which was submitted by Mrs Husna Bibi, had been recommended for approval by the council's planning officers, who said it would 'enhance the economic prosperity of the town centre'.

Smells

However, Councillor Cotterill said: "At the last count there was about nine food outlets, including the fish and chip shop, and we don't want any more."

"It is certainly in very close proximity to residential accommodation."

The building backs on to flats and Councillor Cotterill said he was worried the positioning of a flue would create unwelcome smells, while delivery trucks and bin lorries coming in and out of the site could also pose other problems.

But members of the planning committee decided that they needed to arrange a visit to see the site for themselves before making a decision on the application.

Forbidden love story from Iran

AN author who encountered the laws and customs of Iran whilst searching for traditional recipes, will speak about her experiences at Stourbridge Library.

Jennifer Klinec has written a memoir called The Temporary Bride, which outlines the time she spent in the country learning to cook local dishes and, inadvertently, experiencing a forbidden love affair.

Leaving her Canadian home at 16, Jennifer, who now lives in London, travelled the world in search of ancient recipes and set up a cookery school. The Temporary Bride is her first book.

The event takes place at the library in the Crown Centre tonight (Thursday) at 7pm and tickets cost £3 including refreshments. Tickets are available from the library on (01384) 812945.

Annual meeting for Beacon Hill group

BEACON Hill Tenants and Residents' Association is holding its annual general meeting in Sedgley today (Thursday).

The meeting will be taking place in Sedgley Ex-Servicemen's Club, at The Walk, from 7.30pm.

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Scheme for church is held up by lease snag

CAMPAIGNERS working to reopen a landmark Dudley church say they are hopeful that a hitch with the lease will soon be resolved.

St John's Church Preservation Group has permission to take over the listed building in Kates Hill and reopen it for Christian worship, tourism and community use.

However, there have been delays on finalising the lease with the Diocese of Worcester.

Preservation group chairman Deb Brownlee said: "After some communication there's just one important clause left in the proposed lease that we haven't finalised. However, we are optimistic that we can soon find mutually acceptable wording and we feel that we have been well advised by our solicitor John Cockling who has now written to Diocesan registrar."

The group is continuing to raise funds in readiness for the church re-opening. "Although there have been some delays in getting the lease document right, we know that we will soon be re-opening St John's and we continue to fundraise in anticipation.

"We are also building up reserves so that we will be able to accept grants which require upfront expenditure.

"We're pleased that our reserves are now at just under £20,000 and ready funds at around £17,000. Our aim is to enter the project financially sound and ready to start some of the work. "We thank everyone who has helped us to put these funds into the kitty ready for the big day," added Mrs Brownlee.

Roadworks will last for 20 weeks

MOTORISTS are facing delays for five months when a new set of roadworks get underway on a busy road in Kingswinford.

Temporary traffic lights were being placed on Stallings Lane this week as South Staffs Water start carrying out work to lay a new water main. The work is expected to take around 20 weeks and traffic lights will be in operation during peak periods.

The entrance to Pensnett Trading Estate, off Second Avenue, will be temporarily closed on June 20 and 21 and again on June 27 and 28.

South Staffs Water have apologised for any inconvenience that will be caused and want to thank residents, businesses and motorists for their patience.

Classical sounds at summer concert

HALESOWEN Orchestra is performing a summer concert featuring works by Smetana, Haydn, Sibelius and Mendelssohn at the Cornbow Hall on July 11 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10, children under12 free.

Dudley taught me to work hard, says Sir Lenny



Sir Lenny has previously met The Queen

FROM humble beginnings living near Buffery Park to his big break on the TV talent show New Faces and now as a respected serious actor being given a knighthood – Dudley's Lenny Henry has come a long way in a career spanning four decades.

The Comic Relief founder, comedian and Shakespearean actor was raised in the town along with his siblings by immigrant Jamaican parents.

He grew up in Douglas Road and has since heaped praise on the town for providing a springboard for his career in the early days.

As a youngster in the 1970s he attended Bluecoat School where classmates have fond memories of him keeping them entertained with his jokes and Tommy Cooper impressions. His early years were spent in Black Country working men's clubs and he came to the attention of TV bosses and viewers alike when he was a contestant on the talent show New Faces in 1975. He won it with an impersonation of Stevie Wonder.

He made guest appearances on programmes including Celebrity Squares, Seaside Special and The

Ronnie Corbett Show. But his career really started to take off when he hosted anarchic children's programme Tiswas from 1978 to 1981 alongside Chris Tarrant and Sally James. Other shows followed including Three of a Kind with Tracey Ullman and David Copperfield and The Lenny Henry Show.

He was made a Freeman of Dudley borough two years ago. Now aged 56, he said: "People always ask what Dudley did for me – living here taught me you had to work hard to get anywhere in life."

Roll-call of pride as awards are revealed

A TEACHER, a tennis star, GP, community champion and farmer are among those from the Black Country and its surrounding area to be recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours awards.

While Lenny Henry stole the headlines when he let the cat out of the bag about his impending knighthood earlier this week, he is not the only person from the region to be honoured.

Black Country wheelchair tennis champion Jordanne Whiley has been made an MBE for services to sport.

The doubles star from Halesowen has been recognised for her incredible form over the past couple of years which has seen her win five consecutive Grand Slam titles alongside partner Yui Kamiji.

Andrew Griffiths, head teacher at Dudley's Ellowes Hall Sports College, has received a prestigious OBE, as has Dr Nick Harding, a senior care chief at the Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group.

Mr Griffiths has guided Ellowes Hall to becoming Dudley's best state school in his 13 years at the helm and has also played a key role in the formation of a new academy trust bringing together four schools in the borough.

The 59-year-old said: "I am delighted. This is because of the effort and work of people of the school more widely and a bit of it is each of theirs."

In 2013, the school was named as one of the most improved in the country.

In 2008, Dr Harding was a founding partner in a new super partnership for GPs which brought together 15 health centres and represents around 70,000 patients in the Black Country. People who have made a difference in their communities have also been named on the honours list.

Campaign

Lynn Boleyn led a campaign to save Maidensbridge Primary School in Wall Heath from closure. Her actions led to her being elected as a councillor in Wall Heath, while she then went to spearhead a campaign to raise more than £1 million for a new football centre for the Kewford Eagles. She has been awarded an MBE. Miss Boleyn, of Beechcroft Road, said: "I couldn't believe it."

Farmer Bill Snelson, aged 82, will also get an MBE for services to farming and to his home village of Bobbington, near Stourbridge.

Dr Clare Tailor, of Stourbridge, receives an MBE. Jeremy Hobbs gets a BEM for services to Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton and Hazel Knowles, president of Halesowen St John Ambulance also receives a BEM.



Paralympic and Grand Slam tennis ace 23-year-old Jordanne Whiley of Halesowen is receiving an MBE



Ellowes Hall headteacher Andrew Griffiths



School campaigner Lynn Boleyn, of Wall Heath

NEWS IN BRIEF

Next phase of housing project

WORK has begun on the next phase of a £15 million project to revamp thousands of council homes across Dudley.

Money is being spent upgrading kitchens and bathrooms, repairing roofs, rewiring and installing new central heating.

Properties in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen will be among those renovated.

The refurbishment scheme has created jobs for six apprentices and a graduate. Dudley Council has spent £44.5m on improvements.

Many more Army reserves needed

A RECRUITMENT drive is being held to attract Army reserves.

The B Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry, based in Dudley, is looking for the next generation of Army reserves from the Black Country in a bid to boost its operation numbers.

The move comes after last year the British Army only recruited 20 fully-trained reserves. Vacancies exist for men and women between 18 and 48 in areas of combat reconnaissance, human resources, catering and medical technicians. Call Arran Bevington-King on (01384) 215162.

Mayor is backing blood donations

THE Mayor of Dudley is urging people to help save lives by giving blood.

National Blood Week is running this week to highlight the importance of people giving blood.

Councillor Steve Waltho is highlighting blood and organ donation as one of his priorities. In Dudley there were 3,959 people who donated blood at least once last year. That's 19 in every 1,000 people in Dudley aged 17 to 70. Visit www.blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23 to find out if eligible.

Fun day for scout hut will be in hall grounds

A FAMILY fun day will be held in the grounds of Hagley Hall to help raise funds for a Scout group.

The hall's parkland will be hosting the fun event on June 28 from 10.30am until 4pm.

Organisers from Hagley Ramblers Scout Group are preparing for an event featuring Vikings, bushcraft and a bouncy castle in aid of a scout hut revamp. Tickets are £7 for adults and £3.50 for three to 16s. Car park free. See www.hagleyramblers.com

Gornal pub tea party

A PUB in Dudley is switching to tea to raise money for charity.

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party is being held at The Jolly Crispin in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, on July 18 for Macmillan Nurses. There will be a prize for the best hat. Tickets £10 will be on sale at the pub from Sunday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



EIGHT thousand bank workers are to be sacked at the flick of a computer switch. The redundancies at HSBC remind us that, while banks may treat us customers with indifference, they reserve their real nastiness for their own loyal, hard-working and long-serving staff.

THE recent recall of "gluten-free" products from supermarkets following fears they may contain gluten, exposes one of life's little oddities. If you add icing to buns, the buns cost more. If you add currants to buns, the buns cost more. But if you remove gluten from buns, the buns still cost more.

AN academic caused a row a couple of weeks ago by referring to erasers as "an instrument of the devil" for encouraging kids to hide and ignore their mistakes. I bet ye ancient mason who carved a plaque in Beer church would disagree. Mounted on the wall, it praises the memory of Edward Good, an "industrious fisherman" who left an endowment of £20 to the poor of the village. Having finished his plaque the mason no doubt sat back to admire it. That's when he would he have noticed the bit about how the money was to be "distributed," and no doubt muttered the Almighty's name.

"A NATION engorged on cupcakes is a nation in decline." The Daily Telegraph in full harrumphing mode this week, deploring the popularity of the American treat.

YES, the official photos of Prince George and his baby sister Charlotte are sweet.



But that is no excuse for one of Fleet Street's finest putting up the headline: "Their Royal Cutenesses." This is England, not Disneyland.

WE no longer speak English as the Queen used to speak it, in the days when monarchs dwelled in pellisses and the lower orders lived in hices. But you do occasionally catch a morsel of genuine 1950s Windsorese. In the streets of Leamington Spa a few days ago I heard an old chap explaining, in a cut-glass accent, that the wind was "dine dine". Dying down.

ARISE, Sir Lenworth. Lenny Henry's knighthood was only a matter of time and I bet within a few years he will be in the House of Lords. Not a bad result for a working-class lad from Dudley who has spent his entire adult life doing stuff he loves.

MORE linguistic confusion. After the UK/US mix-ups over fags and rubbers, a reader writes: "My wife is Ukrainian. When Ukrainian friends visit us for the first time, we always have fun telling the female visitor that I am going to take her husband to a public house (in her language a public house is a brothel)."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Concern over shops after vandal attack

VANDALS have again targeted a run-down shopping parade in Wordsley, prompting renewed calls for action over the eyesore.

A door of an empty shop in Sandringham Place has been smashed in the latest incident.

The row of six shops opposite The Ashwood Inn has been blighted by vandals for 15 years. Three of the shops remain empty despite repeated

efforts to revitalise the properties. Following the latest attack, Wordsley's Councillor Paul Brothwood is seeking to secure an enforcement notice against the owners requiring them to clean up the shops.

Councillor Brothwood, also Dudley's UKIP group leader, said: "It has looked like that for 15 years now. It is a real eyesore and I am determined to get it resolved. The

residents here are very frustrated. They feel the terrible state of the shops has affected the value of their properties. They do not want to be looking at an eyesore."

Fellow ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley, who has campaigned to restore the shopping parade, warns that proposals to build a Co-Op on the nearby Ashwood Inn car park could delay progress.



The shop row at Sandringham Place

Senior managers will go to save £1m a year

EIGHT senior managers are being made redundant at Dudley Council to save £1 million as part of cost-cutting plans.

Senior director roles at the council are being cut from 22 to 11 as part of the savings scheme.

Five director and 17 assistant director positions are being removed and replaced with three strategic directors and eight chief officer posts.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "We are in the final stages of this tier of the corporate restructure and have welcomed a few new faces to the authority who share our ambition to make this leaner and more efficient than ever before."

"Two of the three strategic directors are now in place with an appointment to the third being made over the next few weeks, and we are currently recruiting for a chief officer for children's services, which we hope to agree soon."

"There have been eight redundancies agreed as part of this restructure and there are currently a further three staff at risk of redundancy."

Concerned

The move had come under fire from opposition councillors concerned about the rise in salaries for the new roles but bosses said the directors and officers would have larger remits.

Councillor Lowe has said the changes are not just a one-off saving but on-going, year-on-year that would help to save the authority £1m each year.

The council needs to make savings of £22.9m in 2015/16, moving up to £25.3m by 2016/17 and £27.4m to save by 2017/18.

But the council has warned it faces a deficit of approaching £30m by 2017/18 if additional savings are not found. More than 130 jobs will be axed by the council.

The council is looking to make 134 voluntary and two compulsory redundancies in 2015/16.

School strengthens links with Africa



Belle Vue Primary School pupils saying goodbye to Wensu Faye, a visiting teacher from a school in The Gambia

LINKS between Wordsley and The Gambia have been strengthened thanks to teachers and school pupils.

Belle Vue Primary School in Wordsley received a British Council Connecting Classrooms grant to fund exchange visits with the African nation.

Two members of Belle Vue staff visited The Gambia in March and in return Wensu Faye, a senior teacher at Bakau Newtown Lower Basic School, has visited Belle Vue.

He worked throughout the school teaching lessons, as well as meeting parents and Governors to share teaching methods and ideas. This culminated in a Global Children's Conference last week, also attended by pupils from Netherbook Primary School in Netherton.

The conference was run by Claire Davies, deputy headteacher of Belle Vue and Pam Copeland of B & C Education who have been running trips to The Gambia for teachers for the last 12 years.

The conference celebrated The Day of the African Child, held on June 16.

The conference included a UN style debate where the children discussed whether all children should go to school.

The Connecting Classrooms programme is funded by the British Council and UK Aid and is designed to help young people learn about global issues.

It supports 5,634 schools in the UK and allows 31,000 schools worldwide to collaborate online.

Scottish trek invitation to support sight loss charity

COMPANIES across the West Midlands have been invited to join a team building challenge in aid of Black Country charity Beacon.

The three-day trek in the Scottish Highlands will offer a test of character, leadership and teamwork, as well as raising vital funds for the Sedgley charity to support people living with sight loss across the region.

Kelly Vickers, Beacon's fundraising and event officer, said: "Outdoor team building events are a fantastic way for companies to energise their workforce, improve team bonding through a shared experience and inspire them to deliver better performance in their daily work."

"We are calling on groups from local companies to push themselves to the limit and tackle this spectacular and challenging 26-mile trek in the Scottish Highlands and Trossachs National Park."

"The event will leave participants invigorated and elated after pushing themselves through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the British Isles. And, of course, there is also the massive feel-good factor of knowing their efforts will directly improve the life of a visually impaired person in the West Midlands."

The trek takes place from September 18 to 20. Registration costs £75 with a fundraising target of £425 per person. The cost includes all meals, accommodation in tents or tipis, camping equipment and experienced support. Contact fundraising@beacon4blind.co.uk or call 01902 880111.

Taking a look at chapel restoration

PEOPLE will be given a behind-the-scenes look at the restoration of historic Black Country chapels.

On Saturday the public can see the progress of work returning Lye's Victorian cemetery chapels to their former glory.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust owns the Grade II Listed Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels, which are being restored following successful applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other charitable bodies.

The trust will safeguard the landmarks and create a suite for use by Dudley Council's citizenship and registration services.

Places must be booked in advance. Contact Carolyn Healy on 07805 489296 or 01952 433380.

Music and stalls at church fundraising day

A CHURCH will be welcoming visitors to an open day on Saturday. St Michael's at Himley will host the event in aid of church funds from 11am until 4pm.

There will be stalls, competitions, refreshments and live music.

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Festival to be launched with a night at the opera

A NIGHT of opera is set to open the Black Country Festival next month, showcasing talent from the local area and from London's West End.

Community group Gig Caritas is putting on an evening of orchestral music and choral singing for the opening of the second Black Country festival. The group raises money for charities.

The upcoming Opera- The Best Bits! will be running as part of the Black Country Festival and money raised will go to Parkinson's UK.

It will be held at 7.30pm on Saturday, July 4, at St John's Unified Reformed Church in Stourbridge.

The event is set to include performances from professional soloists, a choir from the Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company and the In Sound Company, and the Stourbridge Chamber Orchestra.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "Last year's Black Country festival was a real highlight of both the summer and the year for our borough.

"It is looking to be even bigger and even better than last year and the range of events already planned is set to give a lot more diversity to the area."

"In the Black Country we aren't widely known for our opera, but we are definitely renowned for our diversity — Gig Caritas is really offering that this year."

Tickets are priced at £10 per person and are limited, see their website www.gigcaritas.com

New event service offered by groups

DUDLEY disability groups are among the first in the country to offer a unique way of recording events thanks to funding from Dudley Council's Innovation Fund.

Dudley Voices for Choice and Access in Dudley members have been trained to make a live recording of meetings. The two groups are planning to offer the service to businesses and other organisations as a way of raising money.

Sarah Offley, of Dudley Voices for Choice, said: "We produce a visual record of the event. It can then be used by people, who may or may not have learning disabilities, to help them understand what has been discussed."

Contact Sarah Offley on 01384 422666 or email dudleyvoicesforchoice@gmail.com

Acts needed at museum event

MUSICIANS, dancers and comedians are being sought for an event at a museum in the Black Country. Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath hosts the event on July 12 afternoon. Call (01384) 569444.

Zoo open to talks over sharing car park

BOSSSES at Dudley Zoo say that they would consider allowing their car park to be used by people attending events at a restored Dudley Hippodrome.

The future of the landmark former theatre has been left in the balance after The Rok Group withdrew its plan to rescue and restore the venue, partly because of the failure to reach agreement over use of the adjacent car park owned by Dudley Zoo.

But zoo chiefs say they are open for discussions over the shared use of the attraction's car park.

A crunch meeting is taking place on Saturday at Dudley Council House over the ongoing saga of the Hippodrome.

Members of Dudley's UKIP group called the extraordinary meeting, with UKIP keen to examine

the problems which scuppered the £8 million deal with The Rok Group.

UKIP Councillor Dean Perks said it was vital that members representing the borough did everything they could to save the historic building.

Councillor Perks said: "It appears to me there is no great will from the council to save the building."

Question

"We need to question the relevant people at the council and see if there is any way around the parking issue."

"The Hippodrome has massive potential and we should do everything we can to get it reopened."

Dudley Zoo director Derek Grove said: "The zoo

has welcomed discussions regarding the use of the zoo's car park but now faces criticism for not agreeing to terms which are impractical and would leave some of our customers with nowhere to park."

"On several occasions this year, we have run out of space on our car park and, as the weather improves, we would expect this to continue, especially on weekends and during school holidays. This is without the additional vehicles that would be attracted to the Hippodrome."

"As far as I am aware the zoo's position has remained open and consistent and we are happy to discuss use of the car park as long as it will not cause damage to our business by preventing use by our own visitors."

Siblings are sent to jail for attacks on bus users

A BROTHER and sister who lashed out at bus users during a 45-minute rampage are behind bars.

Drunken Whitney Maughan assaulted two passengers, including a 16-year-old boy, before attacking two more people at Dudley bus station.

It culminated with a vicious beating, in tandem with her brother James, on a 30-year-old man as he waited for his regular service home after work.

The victim described Whitney, from Barnet Road, Portobello, as being like a 'raging bull' as the pair rained punches on him.

Whitney began swinging punches at the commuter after being told he couldn't provide her with a cigarette. Moments later 22-year-old James weighed in with a flurry of blows before kicking the man in the head and rendering him unconscious against a row of metal seating.

As he was out cold, Whitney even rummaged through his pockets and stole his mobile phone and £40 cash.

A court heard the siblings 'completely lost control'. Police have branded the attacks as 'despicable' and revealed CCTV was used to track them down.

Lashed

The pair had been seen on the 246 Stourbridge bus at around 6pm on March 5 when Whitney lashed out at the teenager before laying into a 30-year-old woman who confronted them.

Shortly after leaving the bus in Dudley, she yanked a 17-year-old girl's hair, scratching her neck, before she and her brother turned their attention to the 30-year-old man in Stand G of the terminus. Neither the man, nor any of the other victims, reported the assaults.

CCTV was circulated among staff from the Safer Travel Partnership. Whitney was identified by a PCSO who had previously challenged the 21-year-old over her behaviour.

West Midlands Police issued an appeal to trace her and on April 13 she handed herself in to Wolverhampton police, while James was interviewed by officers in prison in Manchester where he'd been remanded on other matters.

Whitney admitted four counts of assault and theft and was jailed for 31 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court, while James, previously of Angela Place, Bilston, was handed a two-year jail term for assault.

Pc David Ward said: "This type of behaviour is despicable. They completely lost control — lashing out at people on a whim seemingly just for kicks."



Whitney Maughan — 31-month term



Brother James —two year stretch

Homes project to start next month

A £1.3 million project to convert the former Arcal Lodge care home in Sedgley into new council homes is to get underway this summer.

It is the next stage of a wider £40m scheme to build 300 new properties over the next five years across Dudley borough.

Work will start next month to convert the building into six apartments, along with eight

bungalows. The project is expected to be completed in March 2016.

Construction has also started to build homes on the sites of former council depots at The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road in Wollaston.

Dudley's housing boss, Councillor Gaye Partridge, said: "Dudley Council is committed to providing more council homes to

meet the increasing demand for affordable housing across Dudley borough.

"The new developments will provide attractive new housing options for people with a range of differing needs."

A public meeting was due to take place earlier this week for residents living nearby to hear more about the development and view the plans

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drama and arts space at library

AN Arts Council grant will be used to bring literature to life at Kingswinford Library.

Funding of £15,000 has been awarded to the four Black Country councils to spend on showcasing events for their Books into Art project.

In Dudley, part of Kingswinford Library has been transformed to provide a performance area for drama, music and arts events. The Books into Art project will also mark the start of the annual Summer Reading Challenge for children. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries or call (01384) 812740.

Medieval theme at country fair

VOLUNTEERS from the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale are to run a beer tent as part of the annual Kinver Country Fair on Sunday.

The event, which coincides with Father's Day, is taking place along the village's main street and on Stag Meadows. The fun starts with a parade at 11am. Entertainment will include jousting from The Knights of Middle England, a display from Hagley Falconry Centre and fun dog show. Admission to the show ground is £5, free for accompanied children.

Beacon HQ hosts quiz fundraiser

A BLACK Country charity helping people with sight loss is encouraging companies to put on their thinking caps and get fundraising.

Beacon's HQ in Sedgley, on Wolverhampton Road East, is the venue for the fourth annual quiz organised by Quality Silks Solicitors tonight (Thursday) at 7pm. Entry costs £50 per team including a hot meal. Email fundraising@beaconvision.org or book at www.beaconvision.org/Event/silks-quiz-night

A bigger marquee is needed at beer festival

A BIGGER marquee has had to be booked for the annual Black Country Beer Festival at Lye Cricket Club in August. The number of real ales, ciders and perries for the festival from August 13 to 15 has been increased from 80 to 100.

Festival goers will also be able to watch cricket on the Saturday and Sunday with live music in the evenings at the ground in Stourbridge Road. The £10 admission includes £5 of beer tokens.

Staffies club show

THE Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club is holding its 80th anniversary open show on July 12 at Cradley Labour Club's Wilson Hall, Colley Gate, from 10am. It will form part of the Black Country Festival. Kennel Club registered Staffies are welcome, enter via the website at www.thesbtc.co.uk

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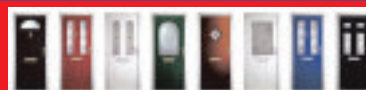
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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Protesting will never make a difference

ON my return from holiday this weekend, a border control official at Birmingham Airport scrutinised my passport very carefully, observing that there was still a sticker from a trip to Dubrovnik the previous month. "You need to take that off, it's obsolete," he said abruptly. It's greatly comforting that our border staff are so meticulous. It probably explains why we never have any problems with illegal immigration.

ISN'T it interesting that whenever there is talk of austerity, the police station closures and library cuts are never far away. Yet somehow, the traffic-calming industry always seems to escape the brunt of the brutality. When was the last time you ever heard a local authority announce in sombre tones that there will be no red paint, speed bumps or yellow lines this year because the budget has been cut?

Recently, near where I live, the local authority had the truly bonzer idea of installing a central reservation opposite the bus stop, presumably with the idea that it will slow speeding drivers down.

However, I suspect that 95 per cent of the time the boy racers will still drive very fast, only now they will drive very fast through the bus stop. It is what boy racers do. I doubt if the average baseball cap wearer stops and thinks "the council has changed the road markings, I had better drive like an undertaker."

That said, I am convinced that for the remaining five per cent of the time we will see a marked reduction in road speeds. Particularly when Mr Max Power drives splat bang into the side of the bus.

When they said they wanted an integrated transport policy, I didn't realise they meant quite so closely integrated.

AFTER months of aggravation at the hands of various disgruntled protesters who have decided to take it upon themselves to be offended on behalf of the people of the Black Country, it was good to hear that the latest anti-mosque demo was a bit of a damp squib.

After all the threats of thousands of angry football fans coming to vent their spleen, fewer than 200 actually turned out. But, really, when was the last time anything in Britain was ever changed by folk wandering through a town centre with for sale boards in their hand?

When I was at university, there seemed to be a demo every other week, usually about cuts to student grants or pit closures. And what a difference that made.

What I do remember was how the student magazine would proudly proclaim how many coaches it filled, but strangely they always managed to lose quite a few by the time of the protest itself. Still, I suppose that's the risk you take if you offer free transport to London for the start of the Christmas sales.



Man Utd players' infamous reproach with ref Andy D'Urso



Referee Jack Taylor tries to keep control in the 1974 final



Alex Hamil when he refereed at John Richards' testimonial

Blowing the whistle on region's rising refs

The role of football ref is not for everyone, but it seems there are more in our region than ever. **ADAM BURLING** reports

HAVING every decision scrutinised, becoming the target of some less than complimentary chants, fending off groups of players angry at your latest indiscretion.

Who would be a football referee? Plenty of people, it turns out – and there are now more than ever in the Black Country.

The job has its fair share of pitfalls but the Wolverhampton's referees association has just been named the largest in the UK with 132 members.

And the men in black say the thrill of taking charge of a match – whether it is watched by one man and his dog or thousands of supporters – is the biggest attraction of all.

Wolverhampton and District Referees Association chairman Phil Reade argues the future of the game relies on people being willing to put themselves forward for the thankless task of taking charge of a match.

And though the game in the lower leagues may not have changed dramatically in recent decades, referees at the top level face a whole new set of challenges with the development of technology.

They run out onto the pitch in the knowledge that any mistake will be replayed and dissected by highly paid pundits from the comfort of their TV studio.

But they keep doing it – and hundreds of officials dream of getting the chance to blow the whistle at the country's top matches.

When Premier League referees' judgement comes into question, it is worth remembering that he has worked for at least 10 years to reach that standard. Referees start at the bottom and have to climb the ladder, getting assessed three times every 20 games to step up a level. It takes plenty of determination to make it to level one and lead out some of the world's



Referee John Kyte, from Wombourne, who has officiated 4,600 matches, each one documented

highest paid footballers, but Alan Wiley from Burntwood showed it was possible when he became one of the country's best known officials.

Having his fitness questioned by an irate Alex Ferguson after Manchester United's 2-2 draw with Sunderland in 2009 was a world away from his days in the West Midlands (Regional) League.

Mr Reade, himself a level four official, says only people who love football would put up with the abuse and years of hard work.

The 48-year-old said: "It's a very lonely world when you're a referee. It's you against 22 players but you get used to it and you build up the experience.

"Referees that reach the top have put the hours in on cold Sunday mornings.

"They do it because they love the game, not for the money, and it takes a lot of work to make your way in the game."

Mr Reade qualified as a referee in 1997 but is now stepping back from the sport as he is struggling to fit it around his day job as a postman.

But he is confident the next generation of officials will be better than ever.

"We hope that one day one of our members will make it to the Premier League," he said. "Plenty of them are good enough if they stick at it."

It is unlikely there will be many that will match Wolverhampton-born Jack Taylor's achievements, though, after he refereed the 1974 World Cup Final between West Germany and the Netherlands and famously awarded two penalties in the first 30 minutes.

Tributes poured in from legends including Sir Trevor Brooking when Mr Taylor died aged 82 in 2012 - and it raises questions over whether today's referees would command the

same respect from the current stars. Mr Taylor told his friends that refereeing was easier in his era when there were fewer cameras and less player power.

And the Black Country's longest-serving referee John Kyte said the stars of the 1960s and 70s were more well-mannered.

The 71-year-old chalked up more than 4,600 games during a 54-year odyssey that took him from the Dixon Street playing fields in Parkfields, Wolverhampton, to Anfield and Old Trafford.

He said: "Cloughie was a complete gentleman. I always used to think how well-mannered his teams were. There were some big name players, internationals like Shilton and the rest. But when I would go and inspect their studs they would all lift their legs up without question."

But he insisted this should not put anyone off pursuing a career as as referee, as being part of the weekly football ritual can become a way of life.

Preserve

"Football has been my life," he added. "I just love getting out there and meeting people, going to the different grounds."

Other famous former members of the Wolverhampton association are Alex Hamil, who graced the turf of every stadium in the football league during a 35-year career as an official, and Walter Wakeman who finally hung up his whistle at the age of 80 in 2008.

The WRA started life in 1910 as a sub-association of the Birmingham Referees' Association and branched out on its own a dozen years later.

And Mr Reade is keen to preserve its rich heritage and keep attracting younger members. He said many now realised that refereeing could be a 'job for life', and school pupils as young as 14 are now taking courses as part of a Duke of Edinburgh schemes.

Though the rise of technology and its impact on the game seems unstoppable, he insists there will always be a need for a referee.

"As soon as you put the black uniform on it all changes and the players think: 'We were rubbish today – who can we blame?'" he said.

"But without a referee you haven't got a game."

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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No room for hatred in my home town

IN regards to the article "Threat to bury pig at mosque site", I would like to put a question to the so-called 'Britain First' leader Mr Paul Golding. Exactly who are they showing solidarity with because there seems to be no one in Dudley that wants them here.

The Britain First group say the Quran says one who touches swine is infested and if swine is buried that the ground is infested. Do they not realise that they that touch it are infested too, as per the Bible?

'And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud,

Churches: use them or lose them

REGARDING church buildings closing, I'm afraid this is largely due to the increased secularism of modern Britain.

Those Christians who regularly attend churches of all denominations care very much about the closure of the buildings in which they worship but the costs of maintaining those buildings becomes prohibitive as congregation numbers fall and income decreases.

The older the building, the greater the costs to meet regulations which were not applicable when they were constructed.

Church buildings are not museums, they exist to provide centres for worship of Our Lord.

It is unfair to expect that taxpayers should maintain them, although many people wish to use the facilities for christenings, weddings and funerals without thought that a faithful few are paying to keep them open.

In summary, the lesson here is use them or lose them!

J WISE
Lower Gornal

is unclean to you. You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses' (Leviticus 11:7-8); 'Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. (Deuteronomy 14:8).

Dudley is my home town. We all get along, Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, etc. Dudley welcomes anyone regardless of background, race or religion, but there is no room for outsiders that bring hatred. A mosque is a place to worship God.

FATIMA
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Invisible illness that causes chronic pain

I WOULD like to bring attention through the Letters page to anyone suffering from Fibromyalgia.

There is an online petition that is aiming for 100,000 signatures to present to the Government and health ministers to make them aware of the need for more recognition, research and funding into this little known and horrendous illness.

I was diagnosed nearly seven years ago and I can honestly say it has spoilt my life. It affects the brain and nervous system and virtually affects every part of the body. Chronic pain is endured on a daily basis with so many other symptoms which could fill this page. It adds up to untold misery.

As we all look OK, in fact most sufferers appear to look fit and well, myself included, we get very little empathy — despite the fact that people with Fibromyalgia have one of the highest suicide rates.

We need all the help we can get and can I suggest to anyone who is struggling with this debilitating illness to reach out to those who understand.

Support groups are a lifeline, you can attend monthly meetings and there is a helpline to keep in touch, so that you don't feel so alone with it all.

There are people who really do know what you are going through.

J BLAKE
Dudley

Zoo trip was well worth it

DURING half term I took my six-year-old granddaughter for a trip to Dudley Zoo. I did not know what to expect as it has been a long time since my last visit and at that time it was in a very sorry state.

How surprised I was to see what a lot of work has gone into improving its appearance and the facilities.

There are lots of places to sit and watch the animals and to have your picnic or to use the on-site catering. The animals all looked healthy and very well-cared for.

My granddaughter really enjoyed her trip and we spent nearly seven hours there but fatigue set in before we had seen it all, so I anticipate another visit very soon.

For those of you who, like me, remember Dudley Zoo as a dilapidated 1960s zoo I think you will be surprised.

P HIBBERD
Oldbury

Council quick to take action

IN these days of austerity and limited funding for our councils, people are all too quick to criticise.

I would like to congratulate Dudley Council. On three occasions now I have made contact with the highways department and more recently the street cleansing department, regarding the state of certain roads.

Within several days the defects were repaired and on the first working day after I contacted the street cleansing department the graffiti was removed. Well done, keep up the good work.

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

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Silence in tribute to ex-member

Kingswinford Ladies

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans, welcomed all present, including the speaker and two visitors to the June meeting at the Royal British Legion.

She sadly announced former member, Brenda Henderson had passed away. A minute's silence was observed in her memory.

Treasurer Audrey and member Pauline are both very poorly and they were wished a speedy recovery.

Business matters were read and approved. Sheila said £90 had been donated to Teenage Cancer Trust. Val Thacker was congratulated on raising more than £1,000 for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

Arrangements were finalised for the trip in September.

Speaker Mo Emmons works as a pedlar/traveller artist at Harvington Hall and covers the years between 1100 and 1700 AD. Her talk was full of interesting and unusual facts.

Her costume was a dress of that time, made from wool and suitably dirty to keep in character.

She talked about the rich and the poor, taxes and well known sayings which evolved from that era, for example 'daylight robbery' as a result of window tax.

She said that as late as 1920 teeth were taken from dead bodies to make dentures for the rich. Ena gave the vote of thanks and two ladies won a raffle prize.

The next meeting will be on July 2 at 7.45pm.

Laughter lifts the spirits at luncheon



The ladies, with chairman Janet Emery, front centre, enjoy their summer luncheon

Cameo Ladies

CAMEO Ladies committee, with chairman Jane Emery, gave a wonderful day at Pat-shull Park again for the summer luncheon.

The room was dressed with bunting and flags on each table.

Luncheon was served, followed by Irish bingo. Comedian Dougie Parker then entertained members with anecdotes and stories of childhood memories.

The laughter outdid the drizzle, lifting spirits to a high ready to complete the day with wartime songs led by soprano Pamela Lane, vice-chairman, assisted by Chris Jones and Janice Beswick on keyboard.

A special raffle was then drawn, arranged

Advice on climbing and twining

Wall Heath Horticultural Guild

THE June meeting took place with great success once again.

Chairman Amanda Ridney reminded members of the annual show on September 12 at 2.15pm.

She appealed to all those there, both novice and experienced, to enter. A programme is available on request where one can see

possible items to enter. Speaker Howard Drury's subject was, climbing, twining and other wall shrubs. He gave good ideas for the members to take away.

Howard helps to organise many trips and holidays with Ashwood Nurseries

and has visited many gardens in other countries.

These experiences are shared when he speaks to clubs. A vote of thanks was given by Linda Hickman.

On July 7 the subject will be a prize winning small flower garden.

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Brave Rosie steps out to help patients



Three-year-old Rosie Byrne, seen with mother Jenny, was determined to help other people with cancer

MEET Sedgley's little Rosie Byrne, the three-year-old who has raised more than £300 for charity after completing a lap of her school playing field.

But this was no mean feat for Rosie as she suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and has been in and out of intensive care for months and unable to walk.

But mum Jenny said she had made 'miracle' progress and decided to raise money for Cancer Research UK and her friends at Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

To raise the cash, Rosie walked around the field at St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery in Telford Gardens, Wolverhampton. The youngster was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia just two days after becoming a nursery pupil at the school.

Jenny, aged 35 from Hickmerlands Lane, Sedgley, said the last few months had been heartbreaking for the family but they were all so proud of their little fighter.

"To see her walking again now is a miracle for us," she said. "She has been walking with a frame and took her first unaided steps in months."

Network is forced to close by rising costs

A CHARITY in Dudley that has helped generations of families over the past 26 years is being forced to fold.

St Thomas's Community Network in Kates Hill has suffered the loss of vital funding used to stage courses and pay qualified staff.

Around 35 members of staff, the majority of which are part time, are at risk of losing their jobs.

The centre where the charity is based holds education courses, training sessions and community activities and welcomes more than 100 people a week through its doors.

Bosses said they had no option but to close the charity after being warned that debts could spiral.

Chairman of trustees and ward councillor Steve Waltho, now Mayor of Dudley, said the centre was hit after a number of organisation either reduced or ended their funding for the charity.

The network had also been unsuccessful in securing further major grants from the National Lottery.

Mr Waltho said it suffered its first major blow five years ago when it lost

By Andrew Turton

£80,000 worth of funding, which had paid for its chief executive and office managers. Heating costs of the 1932 building include annual bills of around £8,000 and a replacement boiler could cost £10,000.

Mr Waltho said: "St Thomas's Network is a unique facility with a mixture of devoted employed staff and volunteers which will be greatly missed by all who use its services and premises. In these very difficult financial times the irony is that the network and its services are as relevant as ever. In ageing premises with ever rising running costs and funding all but drying up, the board of trustees had no choice but to make the heart-breaking decision to close."

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Children's innocence is surrounded by evil



Barbed wire can't be a barrier to friendship in the play *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*, which came to Wolverhampton on tour

The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
THE success of this poignant play, a fable drawn from the horrors of the Holocaust, rested on the shoulders of two young boys.

With barely a word out of place, young Finlay Wright-Stephens as Bruno and Tom Hibberd as Schmel, were excellent as the youngsters who form a friendship through the barbed wire of Auschwitz concentration camp.

The innocence of the nine-year-olds, particularly that of Nazi commandant's son Bruno, throws into contrast the horrible banality of the evil that surrounds them when apparently sane adults accept mass murder as normal. The very successful novel by John

THEATRE

Boyne, here well adapted by Angus Jackson and directed by Joe Murphy, ends with the sins of the father being visited upon the son.

It is highly contrived and I wonder if Bruno discovering his beloved father was actually a monster would have been even more effective.

But any play that gets a new generation thinking about how such evil as the Holocaust could happen is a good thing.

The design was very effective with its revolving stage and chapter headings appearing as if typed onto a back-

cloth which also made good use of projected images.

There was solid support from an adult cast, particularly Helen Anderson as the outspoken anti-Nazi German grandmother.

Phil Cheadle as Father and Ed Brody as Kotler managed to avoid creating simple villains, investing their two Nazi officers with some humanity, which made them all the more chilling.

It was another high quality production from the Children's Touring Partnership, who have also staged *Goodnight Mister Tom* and *Swallows And Amazons* at the Grand.

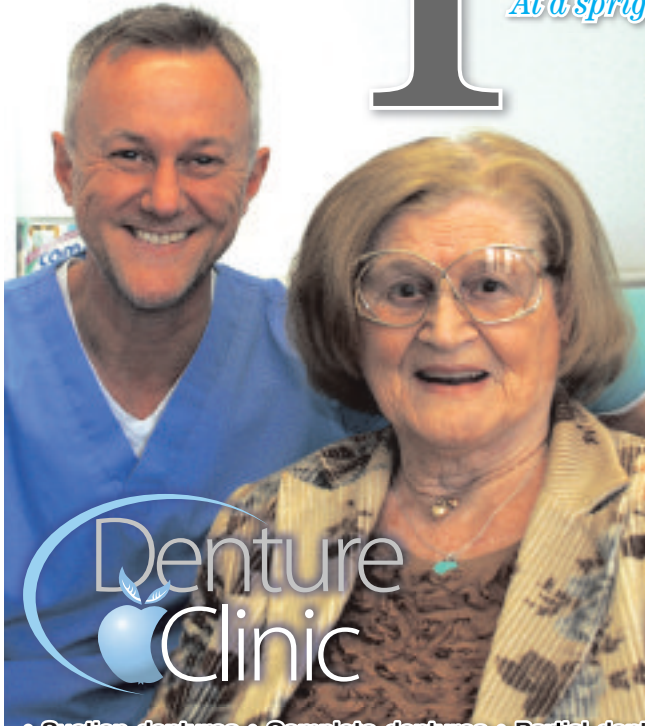
Leon Burakowski

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It's never too late

At a sprightly 86, Una defies the years and travels some 800 miles to restore her smile

With a cheeky glint in her eye, Una says age is no barrier to getting failing dentures fixed.



UNA Oakley is 86 years young and it shows. Spritely, articulate, eager to embrace life, she is the epitome of what being senior should be.

Nodding knowingly, and with a disarming cheeky laugh, she is one of a growing number of older people who are determined to defy the encroaching years.

The former Red Cross worker and legal secretary from Lower Gornal and her doctor husband, Douglas, retired to an apartment in Llandudno - one of the most scenic coastal spots in the UK - but trouble with her teeth unexpectedly brought her back to her Black Country roots.

After being prescribed new dentures at the Dental Clinic, North Street, Dudley, Una confidently declares: "I feel a different person now."

Contracting a mysterious gum infection in 1980 after a routine dental visit, Una found herself being treated by a number of consultants at Birmingham Dental Hospital.

Referred by her own dental surgeon, she recalls: "No-one could define the infection. I was treated by two hospital consultants and a dental professor, but all they could say was that it was not a gingivitis bacteria that I'd contracted."

"Obviously attempts were made to trace its source, but the dentist I had seen had disappeared without trace. No-one ever found him," she says.

For five years she continued to receive treatment at the hospital, but every endeavour to save her teeth failed. Various gum therapies and capping her teeth did nothing to halt the periodontal decline.

"I was given a plate, but the remainder of my own teeth were becoming loose and I pulled out the final remaining three myself."

Her last full set of dentures was dispensed more than 20 years ago. "They lasted well," she adds, "but about three years ago, people noticed I was holding my hand to my mouth and talking through my fingers. I didn't even realise."

"I hadn't consciously made that decision, but when I smiled you could not see any teeth - they were so worn down. I was effectively chewing just on the plate."

"It was my husband saying 'stop talking through your fingers' that made me do something about it," she says.

So impressed

Recommended by a friend to the Denture Clinic, Una and her husband made a 250-mile round trip to find help.

"I never realised I'd lost so much confidence," says Una. "My lack of confidence had slowly crept up on me and I didn't see it."

Una's initial visit to the clinic to see principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 was hugely encouraging. "As soon as I walked in, I instinctively felt there was someone that could do something for me."

"I had come hoping that I could have suction valve dentures, but my gums were not at all suitable."

"Steven was not pushy, explained fully the options I had and asked me to go away and think about it. I was so impressed at his relaxed manner. He just gave me the information and let me make up my own mind. I felt confident

and reassured and there was no pressure at all," she says.

Una's treatment has involved six visits to the clinic - a total of some 800 miles of driving - with her husband acting as chauffeur.

Was it worth it?

She replies with an emphatic "yes", smiles and adds: "They don't look false."

Steven explains that Una's case was a difficult one and involved taking "functional impressions", a procedure where a bespoke template is made and the patient has to perform a number of mouth movements onto dental putty.

"It's the ultimate working model," says Steven.

He adds: "Una's gums in her lower jaw had a negative profile - a inward curve, rather than the usual raised profile. The only way we could assure good function, stability and comfort was to achieve an absolute perfect fit. With this kind of problem there's no room for error."

"I'm very pleased with the happy clinical outcome, but this has been a team solution and the laboratory technicians here have worked miracles. Her decision to have this treatment underpins my personal belief that no-one is too old to get their teeth sorted and enhance their quality of life."

The Denture Clinic is part of North Street Dental, which offers private, family dentistry with resident dental surgeon Polly, a Doctor of Dental Medicine (GDC 188090), who has a special interest in paediatric and cosmetic dentistry, and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDIP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL) GDC 61576. Owain has been placing implants for more than 25 years.

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Town is looking blooming lovely thanks to volunteers

FLOWERS are being planted in Brierley Hill as volunteers bring floral colour to the town centre.

A team of volunteers have been busy preparing flower pots and beds.

Members of the town's civic society joined traders groups, college students, residents and councillors in the project.

It is the second year that the project to buy and plant flowers to brighten up the town centre has took place.

Volunteers say it is really gathering pace as they aim to plant flowers in more areas in the town this year.

Students from the Art and Design Centreat Brierley Hill, which is part of Birmingham Metropolitan College, have been helping. Flowers are being planted in pots along Venture Way and at the end of the High Street near the police station.

They have also been put in pots around The Moor Centre and outside the market to brighten the area for shoppers.

Volunteer Shane Bastock, from Brierley Hill Traders Association, said the project is going from strength to strength.

"It is really great that people are helping us with this," he said.

"We are just looking to brighten the town up.I hope that it'll give people the feel good factor."

Volunteers plan to enter the town in the Heart of England In Bloom competition, in which Stourbridge and Halesowen have found success.

Helping with the planting in Venture Way last week were ward councillor Rachel Harris and level two practical horticulture diploma students from the college.



At Brierley Hill campus is, centre, Councillor Rachel Harris with college bosses and horticulture students

Young man has a fixation with knives

A MAN 'fixated' with knives has escaped being locked up despite being caught in possession of one for the fourth time.

Theo Edmead, aged 20, was with three other youths in Halesowen town centre when approached by police officers on March 27, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

They found he was carrying a lock knife but he said he had been using it earlier in the day while working on his motorcycle and had simply forgotten that it was still in his pocket, said Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting.

Edmead, of Narrow Lane, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article and was given eight months detention in a Young Offenders Institution suspended for a year, plus 100 hours of unpaid work and £340 costs.

Recorder Leo Pyle told him: "You have a fixation with knives.

"This is a serious offence even though you were not brandishing the knife. It only needs a moment of anger or a perceived insult for it to be produced."

Scout hut is targeted yet again by vandals

SCOUT leaders have vowed to raise money to get their base fixed after yobs vandalised it for the third time in a month.

Members of the Dawley Brook Scouts at King-swinford were left with a hefty bill after vandals smashed the glass on the hut's windows and doors.

The facility, which is within the grounds of the Dawley Brook School in Dawley Avenue, underwent major refurbishment just last year at a cost of £2,000. It has been put out of use until repair work can be paid for.

The group was still reeling from two attacks just weeks earlier when they were hit for a third time.

Scout leaders have been fundraising since the latest attack and are hoping to have enough money to get the hut fixed in the coming weeks.

Leaders had boarded up windows and doors in an effort to protect them but the boards were ripped off by the yobs.

Although they weren't able to get into the hut, which is used regularly by around 100 scouts and guides, they did manage to reach the fire extinguisher which was set off.

Fence

Scout Leader Dawn Rides said: "The first time they smashed the door and the glass. The next time we put the boarding up but they still managed to break in.

"We think they climbed over the fence to get in, the school has had problems with that.

"Luckily they didn't get



Scout Leader Dawn Rides with some of the vandalism

in, we keep it secure so they can't get in the hut.

"We spent a lot of money last year having the roof done and a new door."

Mrs Rides said she was upset for the children, who haven't been able to use the facility since the last spate of attacks in April.

She said: "This is something for the kids. We have been trying to get them off the streets and give them something to do. It is a shame for the kids."

Lawyer's quickstep is Strictly impressive

A BLACK Country lawyer did her best to impress Strictly Come Dancing professionals with her quickstep.

Nyree Applegarth, a lawyer with Brierley Hill firm Higgs & Sons, was one of 11 legal professionals taking part in the Strictly nine-to-five event at Villa Park this month.

The fundraiser was hosted by viewers' favourite Anton du Beke and his fellow professional dancer Camilla Dallerup, who won the TV contest in 2008 with actor Tom Chambers, was on the judges' panel.

Nyree undertook 14 weeks of intense training at the Crystal Dance Studios in Dudley to make sure she was prepared for the dance. She said: "It has been really demanding, but I have thoroughly enjoyed it, I definitely feel inspired to carry on dancing beyond the competition."

With her partner Dean Edwards, Nyree danced the quickstep to Dolly Parton's 9 To 5 in the event raising funds for the Child Brain Injury Trust.

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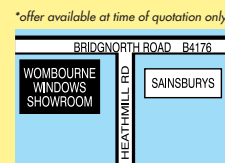
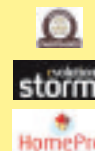
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Parties clash on housing stats

MORE than 71,000 homes have been built in the West Midlands since 2009, new figures show.

Statistics from the Valuation Office Agency, show an increase of 16,100 homes in the West Midlands between March 2014 and March 2015.

Communities Secretary Greg Clark said the figures showed 'how our efforts have got the country building again'.

The figures show there are now 136,000 homes in Dudley, 130,270 in Sandwell, 113,180 in Walsall, 107,560 in Wolverhampton, and 46,320 in South Staffordshire.

But Emma Reynolds, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, claimed home ownership, the number of affordable homes and the level of housebuilding had all fallen under the Conservatives.

Happy feet as penguins born



Head of birds Kellie Piper picks up a penguin, one of Dudley Zoo's Humboldt chicks

DUDLEY Zoo is celebrating the pitter-patter of tiny feet after nine rare penguins were born at the attraction.

Two of the Humboldts youngsters have just fled the nest after staying with their parents for two months.

The other seven are still being looked after by their parents in their nesting boxes. The zoo's head of birds, Kellie Piper, said it was 'very exciting' to have penguin babies, especially as it was early in the breeding season.

She said: "The first two came out of the nest last week and have joined the rest of the colony. The chicks stay in the nest for the first two months when their mum and dad both feed them."

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "The latest births are another success story for our international breeding and conservation

Ask before you strip, says peak streak Ben

A TEENAGER from Wall Heath who stripped off at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro believes the furore over a 23-year-old from Derby, who was jailed for doing the same thing in Malaysia, has been blown out of proportion.

Ben Boleyn said it was important to check with guides about customs and beliefs before doing something that could cause offence. Eleanor Hawkins has been freed after she and others spent three days in jail for stripping on top of Mount Kinabalu. She was also fined £900 after an official blamed them for an earthquake that followed.

Ben, aged 19, of Beechcroft Road, shed his clothes after reaching the summit of Africa's highest peak in a charity challenge. He said: "The place where they did it was a sacred place but it is a once in a lifetime to be up there so I can see why they did it. It has been blown out of proportion." Ben said he would take off his clothes again on a mountain top but not in Malaysia.

Jailed fraudster will pay £50k to compensate his customers

A COWBOY workman has forked out £50,000 for compensation for victims of his 'driveway' con.

The payment was made by cheque to Dudley Council by 46-year-old father-of-11 Patrick Dunne, which will help with the cost of the local authority prosecution, that saw the fraudster locked up for 15 months.

He was charged after his company JJ Callaghan laid dodgy drives throughout the Black Country.

Mr Philip Brunt, representing the council, said: "The authority has received the cheque and, as a result, proceeds of crime proceedings against him have been discontinued."

Dunne had pocketed £15,000 after tricking five households into paying for driveways into which cars sank within days of work being finished. They will now all be compensated.

Prosecutor Mark Jackson told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "He is a menace to the community. He ran a fraudulent business and conned his customers in almost every aspect of his dealings with them."

"He lied about his name, his business address, that works were guaranteed, that his business offered the best in customer care, when payments for work would be requested and what work would be carried out. He failed over and over again to provide customers with information about their right to cancel their contract and the quality of his work was appalling."

Dunne from Stafford Road, Coven was jailed after admitting being involved in a business carried on to defraud customers and pleaded guilty to 12 further fraud charges and eight of misleading commercial practice.

Two raids on the High Street

THIEVES stole money and computers after two businesses were targeted in Lye last week.

Flash in the Pan restaurant and K&K Travel, both in High Street, were both broken into. Crooks forced the front doors of both properties. The raids took place overnight and staff arrived the next day to find their businesses damaged.

Around £250 was taken from Flash in the Pan while cash and IT equipment was stolen from the travel agents.

Khalid Mahmood, manager at Flash in the Pan, said: "We have been targeted twice in two weeks. This time they came in the front door and the back."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

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DUDLEY Little Theatre's 69th annual season will start with Arthur Miller's classic drama *All My Sons*.

Theatre enthusiasts are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the great American dramatist's birth in October.

The play is being staged in Netherton Arts Centre from September 9 to 12.

The company will then be performing *Treasure Island*. Their adaptation of Robert Louis Stephenson's adventure by Phil Wilmott will be presented from December 2 to 5.

The programme continues in the new year with *Bouncers* by John Godber and *Cocktails* by Jane Thornton from March 9 to 12.

The group is on the lookout for more actors and those who can help behind the scenes. Call Rebecca Clee on 01902 566077.

Motorcyclist is in hospital

A MOTORCYCLIST was in a critical condition in hospital this week as police investigated the cause of a crash which left him with a serious head injury.

The 22-year-old from Netherton was injured when his red Yamaha machine was in a collision with a black Honda Civic on Thursday just after 5pm at the junction of Church Road and Marriott Road. The driver is helping with inquiries. Witnesses can call police on 101.

FOCUS ON NETHERTON

Plea for scooters as Friends preparing free park event

AN APPEAL has been launched for scooter clubs to come on board for a showcase at a popular park's fun day.

Thousands of people are expected to arrive for Netherton Park marking the 10th anniversary of the event hosted by The Friends of Netherton Park. A host of events are already in the pipeline for the fun day taking place on July 4 at the beauty spot.

A range of classic cars will be on display at the park alongside other family events on the day, with events starting from 10am.

Organisers want to boost the display by finding people will classic scooters to show their machines on the day.

They are looking for an individual, possibly a representative of a club, who can help co-ordinate the display. They have space for more than 30 scooters.

Event organiser Richard Johnson said there is scope for a bigger display.

"We are keen to hear from anyone who could help us," he said. "It would be good if we could find someone to organise it for us. We would love classic scooters like Vespa. Anyone with classic scooters would be welcome but we want someone to organise rather than people just coming along on the day."

Preparations are gathering pace with more events

By Andrew Turton

and activities than ever before. Among the events planned are quad bikes, a dance arena, live music on an outdoor stage and inflatables. There will also be face painting, stalls, food and drink outlets

Mr Johnson said: "It has grown and grown every year. It is so well supported by people who come in from the local community who walk to the event on the day itself. This will be the tenth year we have put on the event with it growing year on year becoming the largest of its type in the area. It is a fantastic free event."

More than 8,000 came to last year's event at the park, behind Netherton Arts Centre.

Anyone who can help with the scooter display can email friends@nethertonpark.com or visit www.nethertonpark.com for details.



Panto with a Black Country twist, a scene from a previous version of Kippin' Beauty

Fizzogs will bring panto to centre

AN unconventional pantomime is being performed this summer by Dudley-based comedy troupe Fizzog Productions.

The Froggatts and Cottrells will be staging *Kippin' Beauty* at Netherton Arts Centre on July 17 and 18 at 7.30pm.

The show, set in 1910, will also form part of the Black Country Festival.

The panto features characters created by the popular Fizzogs, who found international fame as internet sensations the Dancing Grannies, and previously staged their popular panto with a local twist at the Black Country Living Museum.

Tickets costing £12 can be booked on 07757 424618 or online at www.fizzogproductions.ticketsource.co.uk website.

Earlier this year the group performed *Fifty Shades of Fizzog* at the arts centre.

Victory in campaign for crossing

A PEDESTRIAN crossing will be installed on a busy road after a campaign by residents.

Four years ago Will Duckworth of Dudley Green Party and local residents Martin Cotterell and Bill McCommish handed a 751-name petition to Dudley Council.

They called for a pedestrian crossing in Darby End, Netherton, where Withymoor Road, Cole Street, St. Peter's Road and Northfield Road meet.

There are traffic lights at the junction and now the council will provide a pedestrian phase for safer crossing.

Mr McCommish said: "This is a great achievement—after years of pushing, the people of Darby End will finally be able to get their bottle of milk, pint of beer, bag of chips or even an education without having to risk life and limb."

Paths better for buggies

A £1.3 million scheme will see paths revamped near Netherton. Overgrown and worn-out footpaths will be re-surfaced with cash taken from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

The improved routes will allow people to walk or cycle from Saltwells Lane and Mushroom Green to Merry Hill via Saltwells Nature Reserve. The route covers just under a mile and will be made suitable for wheelchair and buggy users.

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Ricky ready to rock castle at Sounds in the Grounds



The Kaiser Chiefs with Ricky Wilson, front, are ready to rock Warwick Castle this July — picture by Danny North

RICKY Wilson will be king of the castle when the Kaiser Chiefs headline a weekend of rock, rap and classical music at Warwick Castle next month.

The Leeds rockers, fronted by The Voice judge and mentor Wilson, will top a three act bill in the grounds of the historic landmark on Friday, July 10.

The band have released five albums over 15 years, including last year's chart-topper Education Education Education & War. The band's hit singles include Ruby, I Predict A Riot, Oh My God, and Never Miss a Beat.

The Sounds in the Grounds event will also feature rapper and singer-songwriter Professor Green. The 31-year-old from Hackney (real name Stephen Manderson) has had a chart-topping single, Read All About It with Emeli Sandé, and three hit albums including last year's Growing Up in Public.

Opening the show will be 21-year-old London singer Ella Eyre, best known for her hit collaborations as singer on Rudimental's Waiting All Night and with DJ Fresh on Gravity. She co-wrote Sigma and Paloma Faith hit Changing. The winner of the 2014 MOBO award for best newcomer releases debut album Feline this summer and recently released new single Together.

From pop to Proms, it's all change at the castle on Saturday, July 11, with an evening of classical favourites including patriotic favourites such as Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will be joined by Irish opera singer Lucy O'Byrne, as The Voice runner-up makes her first festival appearance.

Tickets start at £45 (adults) and £30 (children) for the rock concert with family packages available, and £38 (adults) and £15 (children) for the classical event. For further information see the www.soundsinthegrounds.com website.



Lucy O'Byrne



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'No fancy dress' edict for new MP

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor



Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin

WOULD a Dudley manifes- to help Labour get back in touch with the electorate and win in 2020? Alex Salmond seems to think so.

Labour has belatedly woken up to the realisation that most people in Britain want a referendum on the EU and has dropped its oppo- sition.

Ed Miliband's mealy-mouthed rhet- oric was about a referendum only in the event of a transfer of powers to Brussels.

What he appeared to have failed to grasp entirely was how many people felt things have already gone too far.

Whether they have or not is a mat- ter for debate and for renegotiation. But the referendum is long overdue.

Miffed

Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dud- ley North, is one of the few who has been saying for many years that a refer- endum was necessary. He wanted it sooner rather than later.

But in the Commons last week the SNP's Mr Salmond, campaigning against the referendum, suggested Mr Austin had been happily campaigning against it before Labour's election def- eat made them think otherwise.

Mr Austin was rather miffed and raised a point of order with Speaker John Bercow to correct the record.

A tickled Speaker replied that Mr Salmond 'wasn't attending closely to election literature in Dudley, his mind

being perhaps focused elsewhere'. Dudley's one place all the parties need to focus their attentions on.

It delivered seven UKIP councillors and its Parliamentary constituencies all saw their incumbents' majorities increase at the General Election – three for the Tories and one for La- bour. That suggests a breadth of views and opinions with which to form the next set of manifesto pledges. Alex Salmond can certainly be forgiven for taking little interest in Dudley. The Tories and Labour, not to mention the Greens who have a councillor there, must never take it for granted.

Meanwhile Walsall's David Winnick asked whether the Prime Minis- ter might employ the same choice term once used by John Major for any Euroseptic rebels in his cabinet. Foreign secretary Philip Hammond

assured him he will not. What term, you ask? How to describe it in a family newspaper... 'a person born of parents not married to each other'.

The spectre of Aidan Burley's at- tendance at a stag party where the groom wore a Nazi uniform haunted the Tories for much of the last Parli- ament. But it was laid to rest by the success of Amanda Milling, who held on to Cannock Chase when many would have predicted Labour would win it back.

Ms Milling was welcomed to West- minster in the Commons by the work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith with some wise words: "As she represents Cannock Chase, I will offer her one little bit of advice: She should make sure she does not wear any fancy dress, as this does not help one's prospects."

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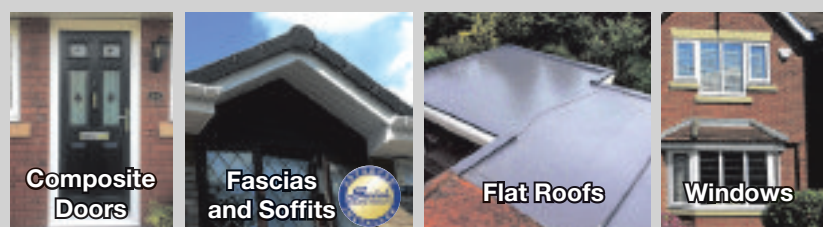
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Tom, front centre, sat with Joe Davies and Jack Baker, both 92 at the Legion's base



Tom Brewin with his 90th birthday cake at the Willenhall club



Dealing with one of the wounded in the woodland surrounding Arnhem in 1944

Birthday brings back memories of ill-fated Arnhem fight for Tom, 90

HE IS one of the Black Country's last remaining survivors of the ill-fated Battle of Arnhem and he has celebrated his 90th birthday with comrades at the Royal British Legion Club in Willenhall.

It was a bitter sweet experience for Tom Brewin, as the Second World War veteran recalled his memories of the bloody battle fought in and around the small Dutch town in September 1944, and his subsequent capture which saw him held as a PoW for eight months.

Mr Brewin, from Penn, Wolverhampton, is one of the last few living veterans of the ill-fated military operation.

He is the current president of Wolverhampton's Parachute Regiment Association, and on June 2 he was joined by 15 fellow members for a chat and a few pints to celebrate his birthday at the Willenhall British Legion base. Although Mr Brewin says the group prefer not to dwell on the

MEMORY LANE

By Peter Madeley

conflict these days, his memories of his time in the war remain vivid to this day.

Mr Brewin was called up at the age of 18 and after training in Glasgow and Worcester, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion South Staffs Regiment in Christmas 1944, which by that time was already an airborne battalion.

At that time morale among the regiment was low. After taking part in the invasion of Sicily more than 100 troops drowned after being dropped in the Mediterranean one mile from shore.

"Sicily had been a disaster for those that were there. It was almost a relief to go to Arnhem to get away from it all."

It was expected to be a straightforward mission with little opposition from the Nazis, but a very different story unfolded.

The troops landed, via gliders, in a field on the northern side of Wolfhagen.

Their first day, September 17, 1944, was incident-free, but by the following morning it emerged that the Divisional Commander was missing. "He had been taken by the Germans," said Mr Brewin.

"We were supposed to stay and protect the landing zone for the next day's second lift, but the order changed and we were told to find our way to the bridge over the Rhine."

"But the Jerries were very smart at blocking all the approaches to the bridge."

Just 10 days after landing the entire battalion was captured when they became stranded on a river bank in the town of Oosterbeek. "Dawn broke and we were all there on the banks of the river, with no ammo and no food," Mr Brewin continued.

"There must have been a good 200 of us."

"We had a choice, pack up or get shot. They surrounded us and marched us all the way to Arnhem to show us off to the Dutch. It was their way of saying they weren't finished yet."

The British troops were loaded onto cattle trucks at the railway station.

"They said they'd give us rations for 24

hours for a 17-hour journey, but we were on there for five days," added Mr Brewin. As a PoW, he was mainly based in prison camps in Czechoslovakia. He describes the day of liberation as 'a complete anti-climax'. "It was a strange day. We woke up and all the guards had gone. We presumed they'd just abandoned their posts."

"The Russians came past but they had no food for us. We made it and the Americans looked after us. Within a day we were put on a plane to Belgium and then back to England."

For Mr Brewin getting home to Whitmore Reans was "a bloody beautiful feeling", but his father Alvin was less than impressed with his wartime endeavours.

"The old chap was in the Coldstream Guards and fought through the Battle of Mons without getting wounded," recalled Mr Brewin. "He called me a 10-day soldier, because that's how long I was over there before being captured!"

In 1949 Mr Brewin married Annie, who is now 91, and the pair had four children.



Tom Brewin with the South Staffs 2nd Battalion in 1943

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Great Dane back home after search goes viral



Sara Swinn from Penn with her Great Dane Oscar who ran off outside the Dudley Arms but is now safely home

MEET Oscar, the adventurous Great Dane pup who had his own mini pub crawl across South Staffordshire.

He disappeared from a pub at Himley and turned up two days later in a beer garden in Wombourne.

While the 16-month-old was wandering, desperate owner Sara Swinn, of Penn, launched a social media campaign to find him. People came from as far as Liverpool to join the search after seeing Facebook updates.

"I am so delighted to have Oscar back. So many people, complete strangers, helped in any way they could after I got the message out there," said Sara.

"I particularly want to thank the members of the Great Danes UK Facebook page for all of their help. Some of the members of that group came down from Liverpool and Chester for the day, just to help look for Oscar. It was absolutely overwhelming."

Oscar got out of his collar at The Dudley Arms and ran away when he was being walked by a friend of Sara. He was eventually found 48 hours

later in the beer garden of The Vine in Wombourne, after being spotted several times in different locations.

"He is a large dog, especially for his age, but he is a big softy," said Sara.

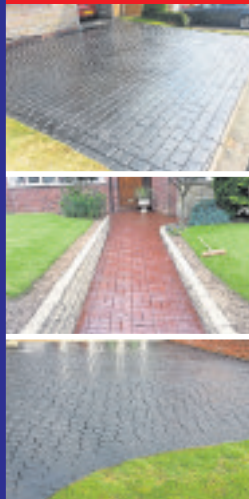
"We had so many people say that they saw him but no one seemed to be able to get him on a lead."

"Police were also worried that because of his size he could cause an accident."

"He was really frightened when the police finally found him."

"He didn't even recognise me straight away but I am so glad he is back."

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Muse rocking hard on anti-war album

ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

DEVONIAN stadium rockers Muse are at their very best when they go over the top... so are very good indeed on seventh studio album Drones.

An anti-militarism concept album (with classic prog rock/Pink Floyd style sleeve), it is full of the kind of Queen-like grand gestures that have made them firm favourites, apparent on the anthemic *Mercy, Defector and Revolt*. They also rock very heavy indeed, the spirit of Black Sabbath infusing the swaggering *Psycho* and singer-guitarist Matt Bellamy providing fretwork fireworks on *Reapers*. And if you want epic, how about *The Globalist*, clocking in at ten minutes.

Muse don't cover new territory here but they do what they do very well.

The buzz around London four-piece **Wolf Alice** started more than two years ago with debut single *Fluffy* and gathered pace with support slots for the *Manics* and others. Some have seemed to write off the outfit fronted by Ellie Rowsell as grunge revivalists before hearing debut LP, *My Love Is Cool*. There's more to them than that.

Opener *Turn To Dust* blends spooky folk with Twin Peaks atmospherics, the funky *Foals-like Bros* looks back at childhood and the intense *Pixies* influenced *You're A Germ* is a howling condemnation of a sexual predator.

Drummer Joel Amery delivers a dreamy vocal for the haunting pastoral *Swallowtail*, whilst Rowsell gives a light pop vocal for the swirling *Soapy Water*. However, the fearsome *Fluffy* still delivers those grunge dynamics and high-pitched squeals.

Jason Derulo covers all bases on



Muse get heavy — Dominic Howard, Matthew Bellamy and Chris Wolstenholme

his album **Everything Is 4**. It opens with a slick double salvo of top-notch R&B/pop songs *Want To Want Me* and *Cheyenne* (you can almost hear him thinking beat that Bruno Mars and Sam Smith).

Nor does he scrimp on the quirky hooks that first got him noticed, *Get Ugly* and *Pull-Up* both have irritatingly catchy effects.

He also scores high with special guest collaborations, enlisting rising star Meghan Trainor on pop gem *Painkiller*, Jennifer Lopez on *Try Me* and both Stevie Wonder (for his harmonica) and Keith Urban on the funky/bluesy *Broke*. He's actually eclipsed by Julia Michaels' power vocal performance in the duet *Trade Hearts*.

This album is full of potential hit singles, you could soon be hearing a lot of *Love Me Down* and *X2CU*.

The superstar from Florida is due to play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on January 30, 2016.

No one else sounds like **Everything Everything**, due to Jonathan Higgs' rapid-fire often falsetto vocals (in normal register he reminds me of Tom

Robinson and Julian Cope). Their frenetic, restless pop/rock is distinctive, amusing, bizarre and appealing on third album *Get To Heaven*.

Highlights include *Distant Past*, reminiscent of Danish popsters Junior Senior, the disco shuffle of *Get To Heaven*, the portentous *Fortune 500*, the rap and wailer *Blast Doors*, as gorgeously outlandish as Billy McKenzie's *Associates*, and the Philip Glass influenced euphoric *Zero Pharaoh*.

London band **Gengahr** make an impressive debut with *A Dream Outside* and it's a real grower. The psych indie outfit have a sound built around falsetto vocals by Felix Bushe and John Victor's exciting guitar motifs.

Moody surf instrumental *Dark Star* robs the album of its momentum midway but there are plenty of stand-out tracks including the woozy new single *Heroine* and plaintive *Bathed In Light*. Check them out if you like Bombay Bicycle Club and/or Tame Impala.

After supporting The Maccabees in May, Gengahr have a gig in their own right at the Hare And Hounds in Kings Heath on October 12.

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'The most evil person I have met in my life'

Duran Duran home city gig



Duran Duran will be back on home turf for a concert in December BIRMINGHAM'S New Romantic rock icons Duran Duran are coming home to the city's Genting Arena as part of their UK tour in a pre-Christmas treat for 1980s pop fans.

Singer Simon Le Bon, keyboardist Nick Rhodes, bassist John Taylor and drummer Roger Taylor will be at the NEC's mega venue on December 4 as part of their UK tour to promote their 14th studio album, Paper Gods, which is due for release on September 11.

The new album has been co-produced by Uptown Funk hitmaker Mark Ronson and Chic star Nile Rodgers and features special guests

including Janelle Monáe, former Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist John Frusciante, Kiesza and Lindsay Lohan.

"We found a whole new level of inspiration on this album," said Rhodes. "We've allowed ourselves the time to make music that we can be proud of," added Le Bon.

Formed in Birmingham in 1978, Duran Duran went on to sell 100 million records worldwide with international hits including Rio and Hungry Like The Wolf.

Tickets for the December gig go on sale tomorrow (Friday) from 9am at www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 338 8000.

AN 'evil' woman who fed her drug habit by preying on an 80-year-old stroke victim has been jailed for two years and eight months.

Amy Sutton escaped with irreplaceable jewellery after tricking her way into the woman's home in Dudley.

The shameless 29-year-old knew that the front door to the flat was left unlocked to allow carers' access, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The woman, who had suffered four strokes in ten years, recognised Sutton and the pair started a conversation during which she revealed where her jewellery was hidden.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said the vulnerable woman was deliberately targeted. "The defendant was shown where the jewellery was kept. She was in the property for 40 minutes before asking to ring for a taxi, having seen that the phone was next to the drawer which held the jewellery," he added.

Sutton took four chains and a bangle, a haul worth £1,600 which she sold for half that to buy cocaine and heroin. The jewellery, which was not insured, was priceless to the disabled widow who had been given it by her late husband.

Sentimental

She told police afterwards: "I did not stop crying for two and a half days. That woman acted as if she was so sweet and charming, when in reality she was the most evil person I have met in my life."

Mr Tim Talbot-Webb, defending, said Sutton's life had been ruined by heroin but she was determined to deal with the addiction. Sutton, of Shadwell Drive, Lower Gornal, had a string of previous convictions. She admitted the March burglary.

When sentencing her, Recorder Mark Rhind who told her: "This is the kind of offence that even the criminal fraternity look down on. When she proudly showed you her jewellery you must have known the huge sentimental importance it held for her."

Popular cottage garden with a tropical twist



Peter Bridgens chats to visitors about his cottage garden with a tropical twist in Landsdowne Road, Halesowen

IT'S owner describes it as a cottage garden with a 'tropical twist'.

And walking through Peter Bridgens' Halesowen garden you would be forgiven for believing you were in a much warmer part of the world.

The unique spectacle boasts giant rhubarb type South American plants alongside Michaelmas daisies and each year dozens turn up to have a look around as part of the National Gar-

dens Scheme. In recent months the garden has also come to have special significance for the man for who it is his pride and joy.

Peter, aged 65, said: "I have been very ill recently and if I am completely the honest the garden has kept me sane.

"I decide to open it to the public because I like people to realise that there is this opportunity to grow things

that they might never have thought of. Who knows, I might even inspire people.

"Of course the most important thing is that we get the money for charity. I have had relatives who have died having suffered with cancer and I might end up with Alzheimer's, so they are good causes."

Peter has been opening his gardens to the public for 20 years.



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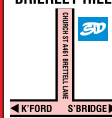
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Disappointment for ambulance chiefs at decision over 111 line

AMBULANCE service bosses are 'hugely disappointed' after they were turned down in their bid to run the NHS non-emergency helpline.

West Midlands Ambulance Service stepped in to run the 111 service in 2013 after the former organisation NHS Direct pulled out.

The service is run in Staffordshire by Staffordshire Doctors Urgent Care Service. But the ambulance service, along with other bidders, was turned down when they applied to run it elsewhere in the West Midlands.

Vacancies on the rise for professionals

A LEADING recruiter says there was an 11 per cent increase in the number of jobs available for professionals in the West Midlands last month.

The contract recruitment index prepared by Venn Group, which monitors contractor demand across the West Midlands, saw the number of job vacancies advertised rise from 1,926 in April to 2,137.

It said there was a boom in demand for NHS workforce planners to tackle staff shortages and the finance sector was driving contractor demand.

Avtar Singh, director of Venn Group, said: "The West Midlands, like many other regions, has experienced a boom in the workforce planning and medical staffing arenas in light of recent staff shortages. In attempts to streamline spending, many trusts are also drafting in financial planning professionals to realign NHS budgets. Increased funding within mental health has seen a huge rise in demand for supported housing managers."

The health service commissioners said that they 'did not receive a bid that was acceptable and demonstrated value for money and have therefore exercised their right to abandon the procurement process'.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "We are hugely disappointed that we have not been awarded a contract to continue providing the 111 service."

Stability

"This is despite being one of the highest performing 111 providers in the country each week, for many months bringing stability to the system that was previously not there."

"Since we stepped in to take over the service from NHS Direct in November 2013, we have invested considerable time in providing additional training to staff to ensure the service operates safely."

"We have also increased the number of nurses and paramedics which has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of patients being sent to A&E or requiring an ambulance unnecessarily. Despite this huge amount of work undertaken by the trust, commissioners have informed us that while the necessary standards were met for quality, we could not agree a price for a service that we felt would be safe or sustainable."

Lucky Dave's £10k birthday bonus



Healthy sum — roadworker David Maddock, from Kingswinford, won £10,000 on the Health Lottery

A Black Country man is £10,000 richer after winning big on the Health Lottery.

Dave Maddock, from Kingswinford, was in a van on the way to work when he discovered his numbers had come up. Four numbers plus the bonus

five-figure prize — just five days before his 30th birthday.

The roads worker plans to spend the money on treating his family, a holiday and maybe new car. Mr Maddock, of Chandler Drive, said: "It was the longest two and a half hours of my life waiting for it to be confirmed."

He bought the ticket from Morrisons in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. He chose a lucky dip and the winning numbers were 3, 6, 9, 37 and the bonus ball of 44.

Dave bought Champagne, chocolates and flowers for the woman who sold him the winning ticket.

Volunteers to help out at arts festival

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help out this summer at Sandwell Arts Festival.

Organisers are looking for people to lend a hand at the community celebrations taking place on August 15, 16 and 22, in West Bromwich, as well as at other events across the borough.

Sandwell Council arts manager Garry Morris said: "It is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the community, use your skills and have an exciting experience."

On August 15 and 16 organisers are teaming up with Creative Black Country for a No Fit State Circus performance in West Bromwich. On the second weekend, on August 22, there will be an event celebrating the life of Madeleine Carroll, one of the borough's most famous daughters who became a movie star in Hollywood.

Councillor Syeda Khatun said: "We're really looking forward to this summer's festival and encourage people to get involved to help make it as fantastic as possible. We're always hugely grateful to volunteers who give up their own time to help out."

Volunteers will receive travel expenses, training, references and a T-shirt. Email lucy_monk@sandwell.gov.uk for further details. Volunteers will need to send a CV, attend a short induction and work with a team leader to support the festival.

Marilyn Manson have Wolverhampton gig

THE biggest goth rock band on the planet, Marilyn Manson, are coming to Wolverhampton for a concert at the Civic Hall on November 21.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am, costing £32.45 with booking fee, available from Midland Box Office on 0870 230 7000 or online at the www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

The Florida band that found fame in the 1990s will be touring in support of ninth album *The Pale Emperor*.

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Charity bosses on site visit at pet hospital



PDSA Director General Jan McLoughlin and chairman John Smith took a tour of the Oldbury site for the new pet hospital

CHARITY bosses have visited the site of a £1.8 million animal hospital which builders will soon complete

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) is building the centre off Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, to replace its existing base in Quinton.

The hospital will house operating theatres, a critical care ward and the latest diagnostic and surgical equipment.

PDSA Director General, Jan McLoughlin and chairman John Smith took a tour of the site, which will open to the public in July.

More than £1m has been raised to pay for the hospital, to be called The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence after a heart surgeon and a cardiologist, both animal lovers, who made a significant donation.

Morale slips in Sandwell

LESS than half of staff at a Black Country NHS trust would recommend working there to a friend, a survey has revealed.

Just 48 per cent of nearly 1,000 workers asked at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust gave a positive response to the 'friends and family test'.

That was the worst result in the Black Country and Staffordshire and nearly 20 per cent below the national

average. It comes as 200 staff face the axe in the next year at the trust, which bosses admit has affected morale.

Walsall was also far below the average with 52 per cent, compared to 62 per cent in Wolverhampton and 58 per cent at the University Hospital North Midlands NHS Trust, which runs the County Hospital in Stafford.

Only Dudley, at 85 per cent, came in above the England average of 67 per cent.

Staff were surveyed in April. Six months earlier 68 per cent of staff said they would recommend working at the

trust that runs Sandwell Hospital and City Hospital in Winson Green.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's score rocketed from 65 per cent to 85 per cent.

More than 4,000 staff were questioned across the five trusts. The survey is intended to monitor the mood of staff in the NHS so bosses can address any issues.

In Sandwell the job losses are the next phase of wider plans by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to cut around 1,400 posts over five years.

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Elton feeling the love at stadium



Saturday's alright for this Elton fan at Walsall



Can you feel the love tonight, a kiss during one of the ballads

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This fan's words were echoed by the thousands of others eagerly packed into Banks's Stadium for a once-in-a-lifetime performance by Sir Elton John, writes Katy-Rose Meaney.

"He is a legend," continues the excited Emma Fox, 31, from Aldridge. "I am honoured to see him perform. It is my first time and to see him sing in my home town is the icing on the cake. The show

The fans were still standing after 'rock it' man Elton John's triumphant concert at Walsall FC

was incredible and the atmosphere was fantastic."

Emma was one of the 14,000 fans who watched the legend perform in Walsall – a location hand-picked by Sir Elton himself.

True to his rock and roll roots, the Rocket Man singer arrived on Saturday by helicopter. But that was where the A-list behaviour stopped, as there was no dramatic start to the show and he didn't keep his fans waiting. The crowd

didn't even get a countdown to his arrival, they were either in their seats and ready at 8pm or not.

The musician simply walked on stage, waved politely to the adoring audience in front of him and sat down at his black Yamaha piano in a dazzling, sequin-covered suit, featuring the initials 'EJ' on the back.

Thousands of fans of all ages flocked to the football ground when gates opened at 5pm, ready to see an icon at work. The threatening wet weather did nothing to dampen their spirits as people – many dressed in wacky glasses, brightly-coloured suits and even Union Flag jackets – chanted the lyrics to Sir Elton's best-known songs as they flooded through the gates.

It was a show for all generations for the Coates family from Pelsall. Mother Lisa said: "I've been a fan for around 30 years and my son James became a fan when he started playing the keyboard when he was seven. I've always wanted to see him live and here is just perfect." To kick-start the night, support act Bright Light Bright Light entertained the crowd ahead of the arrival of the main man.

Once on stage, Sir Elton let his legendary status do most of the talking, although he did thank the audience and the football club.

He opened his set with Funeral for a Friend/Love Lies Bleeding before performing a selection of songs from the Goodbye Yellow



You want more? Elton John gets the Banks's crowd worked up

Brick Road album, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Fans stood and absorbed his performances, not taking their eyes off his fingers dancing across the piano as they bashed out each classic on the stage. He went on to perform Candle in the Wind – the first song to have the entire crowd singing along, word for word.

Sir Elton talked to the crowd throughout the gig, thanking them for their years of support.

He said it was 'wonderful to be here', adding: "Thank you, thank you, thank you. For your loyalty,

your spirit and generosity through good times and bad," he said. The former Watford chairman is believed to have chosen the venue because he had fond memories of the football club.

"You have been an amazing audience Walsall," he said. "Thank you Walsall Football Club for making me so welcome. I hope you have a fabulous season."

At the end of the two-and-a-half-hour gig, the 68-year-old simply bowed to the audience, ending the night with an encore of just one more song, Crocodile Rock.



14,000 enjoyed the amazing performance with the rain mostly holding off

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Dreamboats and
Miniskirts at Grand
See Page 29



Idina Menzel

Page 29



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Jools Holland



Saturday, 6.30pm
 Civic Hall, W'ton

Jools Holland makes a welcome return to the Civic Hall, with his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra and special guests promised, the night is not one to be missed.
 Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

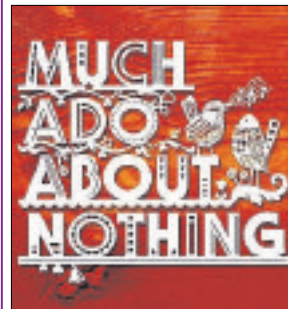
The Apple Tree



Fri, Sat, 7.30pm (Sat - 2.30pm)
 Gatehouse, Stafford

From the brilliant song writing team behind Fiddler On The Roof comes another witty, tuneful and utterly charming musical The Apple Tree which takes place over three comedic vignettes.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Much Ado About Nothing



Thursday - July 11
 Stafford Castle

The cultural highlight of the summer returns with one of Shakespeare's wit-tiest comedies being staged at Stafford Castle from Thursday. Much Ado About Nothing focuses on two pairs of lovers.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Barbara Dickson



Saturday, 7.30pm
 Grand Theatre, W'ton

In this special performance Barbara Dickson, along with her accomplished band, explores her catalogue of songs at an intimate level letting the words and melodies take 'centre stage'.
 Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

ROCK & POP

Jools Holland
 Sat at 6.30pm, £26 - £39.90
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Suzanne Vega
 Mon at 7.30pm
 £28.50 - £38.50
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Ray Quinn with his band
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £16.50 - £19.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Moody Blues
 Sat at 8pm, £47.39
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Ultimate Thunder + Pure Purple
 Fri at 7.30pm, £9 - £10
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Thank You for the Music
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £19.75 - £27.50
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Take That
 Mon, Tue at 7.30pm,
 £61.20 - £94.20
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Waterloo - The Best of ABBA Tribute Show
 Sat at 7.30pm, £23.40
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Bad Manners - The Best Of British Skat
 Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £22.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

RNB & SOUL

Jersey Boy feat: Stephen James
 Wed at 7.30pm, £6 - £8
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Session
 Wed at 8pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Mumbo Jumbo
 Fri at 8.30pm, £7 - £8
 Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY8 0AQ.
 Call 01384 27996

Chase Folk Singer's Night
 Fri at 8.30pm, £3
 The Five Ways Inn, Cannock, WS12 3HU.
 Call 01543 279022

Black Diamond Singers Night
 Fri at 8.30pm,
 The Lamp Tavern, Birmingham, B5 6AH. Call 0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm, £1
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
 Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night
 Thu at 8pm, £2 (£1 singers)
 Brewood Cricket Club, Brewood, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

West Coast Eagles
 Thu at 8.30pm, £10 - £12
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

JAZZ & BLUES

The Blues Band
 Thu at 8pm, £19.50 - £24
 Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

Spacemans Apes
 Sat at 7pm, £5.50
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Layla Zoe & her band
 Sun at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Lichfield Blues and Jazz Festival
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £45
 Guildhall, Lichfield, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Barbara Dickson in Concert
 Sat at 7.30pm, £29.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Local Live 2015
 Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £10
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Only Men Around - On The Road
 Fri at 7.30pm, £23
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Paul Jacobs Recital
 Fri at 1pm, £9.50 - £20
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra presents Petrushka
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Cathedral Tercentenary Festival of Voices
 Sat at 5pm, £12 - £16
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Dresden Philharmonic
 Sun at 3pm, £9.50 - £43
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Big Band and Swing
 Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £17.50
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Indiana Menzel - SOLD OUT
 Mon at 8pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

AC Academy Sing Symphony Hall - Armonico Consort
 Tues at 7pm, prices vary
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Summer Showcase
 Thur at 7.15pm, £12.50 - £41
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular Show
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 £19.90 - £25.90
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Boy Who Became A Beetle
 Fri at 1pm, 7.30pm, £5 - £28
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Be Festival 2015
 Mon at 12pm, Free
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Merrily We Roll Along
 Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £12
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

An Evening of Clairvoyance ...
 Fri at 7.45pm, £12.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Redditch Has Talent
 Thu at 7pm, £5.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Movies to Musicals
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £9 - £45
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Dreamboats & Miniskirts
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £33.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

At Ease
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £10 - £12
 The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

The Carpenters Story
 Wed at 7.30pm,
 £18.90 - £26.40
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Apple Tree
 Fri and Sat at 7.30pm
 £7 - £8
 Stafford Gatehouse, Stafford ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 Wed and Thur at 1pm and 4pm
 £16
 Stafford Gatehouse, Stafford ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Much Ado About Nothing
 Thursday at 8pm, Prices Vary
 Stafford Castle.
 Call 01785 619080

DANCE

Carmina burana
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £16 - £47
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet - Sylvia
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, £16 - £50
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Great Big Dance Off
 Mon at 3pm, 6.30pm, £11.90
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

On the Edge!
 Thu at 8pm, £10
 The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

Mark Grist and M C Mixy
 Fri at 7pm, £11.75 - £13.75
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

FASHION

Vintage Clothes Day
 Sun at 11am - 5pm, £1.50
 Crepe Station Cafe, 24 Stone Street, Dudley, DY1 1NT.
 Call 01384 238555

Wedding Open Evening
 Tue at 5.30pm - 7.30pm,
 West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, DY12 1LF.
 Call 01299 40211

OTHER EVENTS

The Autism Show
 Sat at 9am, £11.00 Plus
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Toy Collectors Fair
 Sun at 10.30am - 3.30pm,
 £2 - £6.50
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Summer Fete - Moat Hall Primary
 Fri at 3.30pm - 6.30pm, Free
 Moat Hall Primary School, Walsall, WS6 6BX.
 Call 441922857005

Berkswich Summer Fete
 Sun at 1.30pm, £0.50p - £1
 Milford Hall Cricket Club, Milford, Stafford, ST17 0UL.
 Call 01785 663960

The Quiz
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

ART EXHIBITIONS

Siân Macfarlane: Talk
 Sat at 2pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
 Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sat, Sun at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Liberated Quilt
 Tue, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 7pm, Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, Free
 Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU.
 Call 01902 552507

Georgian Enamels
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free
 Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.
 Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Back to the 60s at miniskirt musical



More than 40 hits from pop's greatest decade feature in Dreamboats and Miniskirts at the Grand next week

A SENSATIONAL 1960s jukebox musical will get audiences bopping in their seats at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when Dreamboats and Miniskirts swings onto the stage on Tuesday for a five-day run.

The sequel to hit musical Dreamboats and Petticoats, it is again written by the top TV team of Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, duo behind Birds of a Feather, Shine on Harvey Moon and Goodnight Sweetheart.

Dreamboats and Petticoats became a musical phenomenon, playing to more than two million people across the UK. The musical was inspired by Universal's multi-million selling albums of vintage hits which now boasts seven double compilation albums and a myriad of special releases.

The creative team reunite to update the story to 1963, as the success of bands like The Beatles inspire Bobby and Laura to have one more shot at

stardom as we catch up with their mates, as teenagers turn into adults with new roles and responsibilities.

But the story is secondary to more than 40 great pop songs from the era delivered by a beehived and Mod-clothed cast of all-action performers.

Bill Kenwright's touring production has been getting enthusiastic reviews across the country and now it's Wolverhampton's turn to Hippy Hippy Shake with the best of them.



Frozen star is hottest ticket

BROADWAY and movie star Idina Menzel opens her UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday and there will not be a spare seat in the house for the Tony Award-winner's eagerly-awaited concert.

She was most recently heard as Elsa in Disney's global box office smash Frozen, in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song Let It Go (the pop version was sung by Demi Lovato).

Menzel earned her first Tony nomination in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Rent and then won the award for her performance as Elphaba in Wicked, a role she played in New York, London and San Francisco.

The Long Island-raised singer's other best known roles include Rachel Berry's mother, Shelby Corcoran, on the hit television show Glee as well as starring opposite Susan Sarandon and Amy Adams in Disney's Enchanted. This year she presented the Oscar for Best Original Song and will be starring in the musical If/Then in America.

"Most of the songs are from shows that I've been in, and then other music I want to explore," Menzel says of her tour. "Although Let It Go is my only hit radio song in my career, I sort of consider songs like Defying Gravity and songs from Rent to be my other hit songs. My barometer for that is if I can put the microphone out and the audience can sing every word, then that's my hit song."

Her recent albums have included the original Broadway cast recording of If/Then and Live: Barefoot at the Symphony.

Face to face with Bowie's producer

ROCK producer Tony Visconti is coming to Birmingham with special guests to perform one of the favourite albums he worked on, David Bowie's The Man Who Sold The World.

The title song, a hit for Lulu and later Nirvana, came from Bowie's third studio album and its band was the nucleus of Ziggy Stardust's Spiders From Mars.

The American, who also produced artists ranging from T Rex to Morrissey and Kaiser Chiefs, says it is long overdue that the album be performed in full live. He is enlisting Marc Almond, Heaven 17's Glen Gregory and original Spiders drummer Woody Woodmansey for the gig at the O2 Academy on June 29.

European festival transforms The Rep

BE Festival, Birmingham's festival of European theatre, returns to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from June 23 to 27.

The festival's unique format gives the audience the opportunity to see four 30-minute long shows each night and eat dinner with performers in the interval.

This year's Be Festival spans five days and features 20 shows from nine European countries. The festival turns Birmingham Rep back-to-front, transforming the theatre's vast new workshop into a hub complete with lounge, bar and exhibition space.

Passes are available with or without dinner. See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk for details.

Canine eyes up the main trance

BILSTON rock and blues venue The Robin 2 hosts one of its strangest shows on Monday when Princess the Hypnodog, the mesmerising mutt who apparently hypnotised Simon Cowell on Britain's Got Talent, has a comedy hypnotism show with handler Krystyna Lennon.

Tickets cost £16 on the door, or a pound less in advance from the Mount Pleasant venue, to see the canine Svengali. Go to www.the-robin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Other acts coming up include ska veterans Bad Manners with Max Splodge on Saturday and Canadian blues singer Layla Zoe and her band on Sunday.

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IT'S very rare that I am not rushing from work to review a show or concert in Birmingham.

So when one popped up on a Sunday evening I decided to make a day of it. A bit of retail therapy followed by a bit of wine therapy – perfect.

As the show was at the Symphony Hall the obvious eating choice was BrindleyPlace and it just so happened that a week or two earlier I had had an email on the Discover Wine Campaign at All Bar One, just over the canal bridge. As a wine lover this was just too good an opportunity to miss.

This stylish city bar, which recently had a major refurb, specialises in cocktails and runs its own cocktail-making classes – but more on that later. There is a large outside eating area but we opted for inside and were shown to our corner seat by a very friendly

By Sue Attwater

and helpful waiter called Bob. Menus already on the table, we very quickly decided to go for the 'small plates'. They advise five between two at a total cost of £26 – very good value at just £13 each for a share of actually very generous taster portions.

We opted for beetroot cured salmon gravlax with goat's curd and apple, coriander, za'atar spice mix and tzatziki, slow cooked pork with creamed potato, apple and vanilla ketchup and pork crackling, Szechuan-coated crispy calamari, with red chilli and served with wasabi dip, ginger teriyaki chicken skewers with pickled vegetables and sesame seeds and wild Patagonian prawns in garlic, chilli and lemon with grilled rosemary focaccia.

All very tasty and very well presented. The bar holds regular events including a

wine of the month and although the cocktails prove very popular with the young as we are now, how can I put it, a little more mature we do like a drop of wine.

Luckily for us the wine event was still running. It was due to end the middle of June but look out for it if it comes around again. It is definitely worth it.

Experience

So before our food arrived we were joined by team leader Shaun who took us through the different wines, and there were a lot of them! We were shown how to pick up the aromas and which wines went best with each of the dishes. Although young, Shaun has a wealth of experience in this field, some of it picked up on cruise ships.

We started with the white wines and after a while I was managing to pick out the different aromas but still had no idea of the

region. Then we moved on to our favourite, red wine, by which time I must admit I was probably getting a little bit tipsy.

Shaun advised to drink water between the different samples to clear out palate so at least the wine was being 'watered down' – after all I did have a show to review!

On to dessert and as I have a very sweet tooth I went for the chocolate, orange and mascarpone mousse cake. Delicious, the alorie count was on the menu but I didn't even bother checking. My husband went for lemon torte with raspberry sorbet.

Cocktails are very popular with the young and cocktail making classes are a big attraction. They cost £20 and include three cocktails. All Bar One is a perfect place to eat out or pop for a drink after work. And if you are going to the ICC, Barclaycard Arena the one at Waters Edge, BrindleyPlace is perfectly placed.

SHUGBOROUGH COUNTRY SHOW

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th June
between 10am - 5pm each day

Set in the beautiful parkland of Shugborough Hall, this family Country Show has all day entertainment that includes Jez Avery Stunt Bikes, the 'edu-tainingly wonderful' Sheep Show, Birds of Prey, Working Dogs, Practical Horse Demo with Grant Bazin, 17th Century Encampment plus Have-a-Go Dog Scurry with Pads Dog Training, children's entertainment with Banana Brain and there's Bouncy Castles and Children's Fairground too (charges apply). As well as willow sculpture, basket & trug makers, hurdle and greenwood coppice making, rush spoons there will also be other demonstration skills to enjoy and you can sample and buy in our Arts, Crafts and Gifts marquees as well as Lifestyle and Food Stalls. It's fully catered and has a licensed bar featuring real ales and scrumpy and all accompanied by the wonderfully infectious Plonkers Agricultural Band And on Sunday we're proud to host the Companion Dog Show Sponsored by Skinner's - proceeds from entries all go to Marie Curie Cancer Care ...

...so bring along a canine friend and have a go!

masses to see and do!

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adm: £7.50 concs: £6 child age 5-16: £3 Family: £19 (2 adults + 2 children)
discounted pre-booked admission tickets at: www.oakleighfairs.co.uk/shuggame

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DAY TRIPS

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Saturday 8th August
WELLSBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD
Adults £12.00 O.A.P £10.00 Child £9.00

Saturday 15th August
NEWARK MARKET NOTTINGHAM
Adults £15.00 O.A.P £14.00 Child £13.00

CHOICE



Reggie Yates

Prized Apart (BBC1, 7pm)
Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. The remaining nine couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize, as one member of each couple takes part in a series of challenges on location in Morocco, while the other is based at Farnborough airport, ready to answer a series of questions to potentially save their partner, should they find themselves in the bottom three and in danger of being eliminated. In this show, the challenges include a race through the sand dunes of the Sahara Desert, with the lowest-ranked three contestants flown back to their studio partners in the UK.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 The Box.** **12.00 BBC News.** Weather. **12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 Tennis** from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Live coverage of the semi-finals on the sixth day at the Queen's Club in London. **4.45 Pointless Celebrities.** (R) **5.30 Formula 1 - Austrian Grand Prix: Qualifying Highlights.** Suzi Perry presents action from the battle for pole position from the eighth round of the season at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. **6.45 BBC News.** **6.55 Regional Programme.** **7.00 Prized Apart.** Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. The remaining nine couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize. **8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.55 Casualty.** Dixie tries to help a mother, Suzy, who is grieving for her baby, but soon suspects that she has abducted another one to replace her own. Hospital drama, starring Jane Hazlegrove. **9.45 The John Bishop Show.** The comedian presents another evening of entertainment, recorded at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including music by the Vaccines and the Overtunes, stand-up routines by Jiminjin, Tanyalee Davis and Hal Crutenden, and a performance by Spark Fire Dance. Plus, Vikki Stone sings an ode to Professor Brian Cox. **10.30 BBC News.** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50 Not Going Out.** Lucy decides she wants to have a baby, but is surprised to find the whole family taking a personal interest in the conception. Lee Mack, Sally Bretton and Katy Wix star. (R) **11.20 Room 101 - Extra Stage.** Frank Skinner welcomes German comedian Henning Wehn, West End star Michael Ball and actress-presenter Caroline Quentin to discuss their pet hates. (R) **12.00 Film: The Rookie.** (2002) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

7.55 Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) Comedy, starring Alastair Sim. **9.15 Animal Park.** (R) **9.45 Elephant Diaries.** (R) **10.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **12.00 Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial.** (R) **1.00 Live Athletics: European Team Championships.** Day one from Central Stadium in Choboksary, Russia. **5.30 Ocean Queens: The Story of Cunard.** **6.00 Gardeners' World.** Joe Swift continues his mission to find the perfect hanging basket and Carol Klein visits one of the country's most beautiful gardens to find out why their borders work so well. (R) **6.30 Edwardian Farm.** December arrives and the hardships of winter take their toll on Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman. As the traditional livelihood methods dry up, the men travel to the coast to embark on sea fishing, while Ruth has to look for domestic service work at a grand Edwardian stately home. (R) **7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands.** Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan, revealing unexpected stories of isolation, unique wildlife and unsolved mysteries. (R) **8.30 Dad's Army.** The platoon defends headquarters in an exercise against members of the Highland Regiment. Classic episode from 1969, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **9.00 La Traviata: Love, Death and Divas.** Amanda Vickery and Tom Service look at the story behind the opera's opening night in London in 1856, and its scandalous heroine, whose life and death were based on real-life events. **10.00 Mock the Week.** Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R) **10.35 Film: Hamlet 2.** (2008) A failed actor-turned-drama teacher directs his students in a spectacular self-written musical sequel to Shakespeare's tragedy. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Catherine Keener. **12.00 The Many Faces of Robbie Coltrane.** (R) **1.00 Film: Good Hair.** (2009) **2.30 Sign Zone: Watchdog.** (R) **3.30 Rip Off Britain: Food.** (R) **4.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **8.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **8.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Super 4.** (R) **7.45 Nerds & Monsters.** (R) **8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.25 ITV News; Weather.** **12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.40 Tipping Point.** (R) **2.40 1000 Heartbeats.** (R) **3.35 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park.** (1997) Dinosaur adventure sequel, with Jeff Goldblum. **6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.** **6.15 ITV News; Weather.** **6.30 You've Been Framed!** Surreal comedy meets slapstick as Harry Hill narrates a selection of videos filmed by viewers, including a feline performance of Wuthering Heights and the International Toddler Throwing Championship. Plus, a man who speaks sea-lion and a crow that hates cashmere. (R) **7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.** (2005) The adolescent wizard is unexpectedly chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a prestigious magical tournament, despite being legally too young to enter. He joins champions of three other magical academies to face deadly monsters in a series of challenges. Meanwhile, the followers of the dreaded Lord Voldemort plot to restore their master to the land of the living. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Robbie Coltrane, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Brendan Gleeson and Robert Pattinson. **10.00 ITV News; Weather.** **10.10 Film: Raw Deal.** (1986) A former FBI agent is offered reinstatement if he can infiltrate the Chicago Mob and bring a killer to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Kathryn Harrold. **12.10 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.30 Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire.** **7.00 The Grid.** **7.30 FIM Superbike World Championship.** **8.00 Royal Ascot: The Morning Line.** **9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** **1.30 Royal Ascot: Channel 4 Racing.** Clare Balding and Nick Luck present live coverage of the fifth and final day of the festival, featuring races at 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.20, 5.00 and 5.35. **6.00 Couples Come Dine with Me.** Three couples from south Wales compete for the £1,000 prize, featuring a Welsh-themed evening, a series of personal revelations and a night of extravagance. (R) **6.40 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson embarks on expeditions through some of Britain's most historic landscapes in search of the richest stories from the nation's past. He begins with a 40-mile walk along the Derwent Valley in the Peak District, where the world's industrial revolution was born. (R) **8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** New series. Penelope Keith explores British villages, finding out about their traditions, and also how their way of life is being threatened, beginning with a trip to East Anglia. **9.00 Film: Rush.** (2013) Premiere. The 1976 Formula One Championship season is dominated by a fierce rivalry between two contrasting racers, as daredevil British driver James Hunt and methodical Austrian defending champion Niki Lauda put their lives on the line to outdo each other on the track. Fact-based drama, starring Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Brühl and Olivia Wilde. **11.25 Film: Basic Instinct.** (1992) A hard-drinking cop investigating a murder case lets his feelings for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect cloud his judgement. Thriller, with Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas. **1.50 Royal Ascot Highlights.** **2.20 Hollywoods.** (R) **4.30 The Renovation Game.** (R) **5.20 Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.35 Access.** **10.40 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs.** (R) **11.40 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs.** (R) **12.40 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs.** (R) **1.45 Film: Columbo: Publish or Perish.** (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 The Dog Rescuers** with Alan Davies. (R) **4.10 GP's: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **5.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** High Court enforcement officers Paul Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they break into a home while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. (R) **7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v New Zealand. Action from the final ones day international of the five-match series, held at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. **7.55 5 News Weekend.** **8.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** Documentary following the inhabitants of the seaside village of Jaywick in Essex, where more than half of the residents are on state welfare. Tony Taylor claims £51.40 a week and does odd jobs in exchange for food, enabling his benefits money to go a bit further, while Claire has moved from east London's Canning Town in search of a better life with her fiancé Luke, their young baby and her two older children, who live with a host of pets in a two-bedroom house. (R) **9.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits Hull, which has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest average weekly wages in the UK. (R) **10.00 Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **11.00 Autopsy: The Last Hours of Brittany Murphy.** Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the actress in December 2009, uncovering evidence of a paranoid personality fuelled by prescription drugs. (R) **12.00 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Big Brother.** (R) **4.00 Person of Interest.** (R) **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.45 Top Gear** **8.45 Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup.** **11.00 Family Guy** **1.15 Him & Her: The Wedding** **3.40 Jenny Bede: AAA** **4.00 Close**
BBC Four
7.00 Sounds of the Sixties **7.30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2015** **9.00 Film: King of Devil's Island** (2010) **10.50 Ultimate Number 1** at the BBC **11.50 Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp** **12.50 Prince: A Purple Reign** **1.50** Disco at the BBC **2.50** Sounds of the Sixties **3.20** Close
ITV2
11.05 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **12.55 Film: The Perfect Man** (2005) **3.00 The Hot Desk: Stereo Kicks** **3.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **4.40 Film: Happy Feet** (2006) **6.50 Island 10.00 Film: The Back-up Plan** (2010) **12.10 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show** **12.40 Love Island** **1.35 Crazy Beaches** **2.25 Life's Funniest Moments** **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.35 Inspector Morse **2.55** Lewis **4.50 Film: Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm** (1973) **6.55** Doc Martin **7.55** Foyle's War **10.00 A Touch of Frost** **12.00 Wire** in the Blood **1.30 Judge Judy** **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.10 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.10** Gunsmoke **1.15** Film: The Far Country (1954) **3.15** Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **5.45** Film: Fastest (2011) **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **11.55** Film: The Boat That Rocked (2009) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Predators (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** How I Met Your Mother **2.20** Broke Girls **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Rules of Engagement **4.20** Jane the Virgin **5.05** Suburgatory **Film4**
11.00 California Man (1992) **1.00** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **3.50** The Andromeda Strain (1971) **6.25** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Kingdom of Heaven (2005) **12.45** The Bay (2012) **2.25** Bruno (2009) **4.00** Close

JULY

| | | |
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| Mon 6th | Torquay - Coppice Hotel (late availability) Excursions, Entertainment..... | 5 days £220 |
| Sat 18th | Weston Super Mare or Burnham on Sea (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 19th | RAF Fairfield Royal International Air Tattoo, a Great Day Out!..... | £50 £50 £10 |
| Wed 22nd | Elan Valley Dams & Built Wells Midweek Special..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Thurs 23rd | Bath Roman & Georgian City, Sightseeing/Shopping..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sat 25th | Blackpool Pleasure Beach 6pm Rtn (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sat 25th | Weston Super Mare - Sun, Sand & Pier (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 26th | Mystery Day Out North East or West????..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Mon 27th | Rhyl or Llandudno - Sand, Sea, Pier (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Wed 29th | Carvery & Stratford on Avon, Shopping, Sightseeing!..... | £20 |
| Thurs 30th | Chatsworth House & Gardens, the Duke & Duchess of Devonshire's Home..... | £30 |

AUGUST

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| Sat 1st | Blackpool Pleasure Beach Rtn 6.00pm (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sat 1st | Waldorf Hotel, London, 5 Star Luxury/Hotel, Tour/Afternoon Tea, 2 days..... | £135 |
| Mon 3rd | Chester, Cheshire Oaks or Chester Zoo, excludes admission..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Tues 4th | Drayton Manor Park & Zoo - a Great Day Out for all the family..... | £30 |
| Tues 4th | Highgrove House Garden Tour - a 2 hour guided tour, Shop, Restaurant..... | £47.50 |
| Wed 5th | Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Betws y Coed, Llanberis Pass, Llandudno..... | £20 £18 £16 |
| Thurs 6th | Liverpool City of Culture Sightseeing/Shopping/Caverns (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Fri 7th | The Mumbles the Gower Coast & Swansea..... | £22 £20 £14 |
| Sat 8th | Weston Super Mare, Sun, Sand & Pier (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sat 8th | Llandudno - Sun, Sand & Pier, Victorian Town (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 9th | Blackpool or Free Airshow - Red Arrows, Vulcan etc. (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 9th | Buckingham Palace & the State Rooms "A Royal Welcome"..... | £47 £45 £35 |
| Tues 11th | Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water..... | £12 or 2 £20 |
| Wed 12th | Mystery Meal Tour. Day out with a stop for lunch..... | £20 |
| Thurs 13th | Harry Potter Tour - The Hogwarts Express has arrived..... | £52 £50 £48 |
| Fri 14th | Shrewsbury Flower Show - more than just a Flower Show!..... | £35 £33 £15 |
| Sat 15th | Weston Super Mare - Sun, Sand & Pier (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sat 15th | Blackpool Pleasure Beach 6pm Rtn (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 16th | Hearbeat Country, Aidenfield & Whitley Tour..... | £26 £25 £20 |
| Mon 17th | Chesterfield Market & Matlock Bath£16 or 2..... | £30 |
| Tues 18th | Clarks Village & Weston Super Mare (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Wed 19th | Weymouth Carnival, Aerial Displays, Carnival Parade..... | £22 £20 £16 |
| Thurs 20th | Llangollen, Horseshoe Pass & City of Chester Midweek Special..... | £16 |
| Sat 22nd | London Sightseeing, Theatre, Shopping - a Great Day for all..... | £20 £18 £15 |

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| Sat 22nd | Southport Funfair, Victorian Town & Flower Show - admission not included..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 23rd | Cardiff Harbour Festival Sightseeing, Markets, Live Entertainment..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Sun 23rd | Coronation Street the Tour, behind the scenes of the famous cobbled street..... | £37 |
| Tues 25th | West Midlands Safari Park, includes Tour & Admission..... | £20 £18 £17 |
| Wed 26th | Nottingham River Cruise 3hr Cruise & 3 Course Roast Dinner..... | £35 |
| Sat 29th | Barry Island, Seaside Town & Home to TV Series "Gavin & Stacey"!..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sat 29th | Weston Super Mare or Burnham on Sea (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Sun 30th | Mystery Day Out North East or West????..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Mon 31st | Weston Bank Holiday - Sun, Sand, Pier (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |

SEPTEMBER

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| Tues 1st | Llangollen Market Day & Horse drawn Canal Cruise..... | £25 |
| Wed 2nd | Mystery Meal Tour. Day out with a stop for lunch..... | £20 |
| Sat 5th | Blackpool Illuminations, Back to School Special Tour - Lights 7.45pm..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Sat 5th | Cardiff Castle, Sightseeing & Shopping, Wales' largest city..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Mon 7th | Bakewell Market - Home of the Famous Bakewell Tart..... | £16 or 2 £30 |
| Wed 9th | Hereford via Malvern Hills & Hop Pocket Craft Centre..... | £12 or 2 £20 |
| Sat 12th | Portmeirion Guided Tour & Woodland Land Train, Village Shops & Cafes..... | £30 |
| Sat 12th | Wellsbourne Market & Stratford Grab a Bargain!..... | £12 or 2 £20 |
| Sun 13th | Blackpool Illuminations Tour Lights 7.45pm (f/s £55)..... | £18 £16 £13 |
| Tues 15th | Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water..... | £12 or 2 £20 |
| Sun 27th | Malvern Autumn Show Crafts, Stalls, Plants, Animals, Classic Vehicles etc..... | £30 |

OCTOBER

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|----------|---|-------------|
| Sun 4th | Harry Potter Tour - The Hogwarts Express has arrived!..... | £52 £50 £48 |
| Sun 25th | Coronation Street the Tour, behind the scenes of the famous cobbled street..... | £37 |
| Sun 25th | Waldorf Hotel London 5 Star Luxury/Hotel Tour/Afternoon Tea..... | 2 days £135 |
| Fri 30th | Blackpool Illuminations Cam Brae Hotel, Entertainment, H/B..... | 2 days £79 |

NOVEMBER

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| Sat 7th | Mystery Weekend Turkey & Tinsel (now booking for 2nd coach)..... | 2 days £79 |
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DECEMBER

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| Thurs 10th | Thursford Christmas Spectacular, 3 Star Hotel, Excursions, 3 days..... | £209 |
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DAY TRIPS AND SHORT BREAKS ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2015

ISSUE 3 AUTUMN/WINTER DAY TRIP LEAFLETS OUT 1ST SEPTEMBER

CHOICE



Sheridan Smith

Black Work (ITV, 9pm)
New series. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer whose husband is murdered. She is expected to leave the investigation to her colleagues, but finds herself losing trust in them and goes behind their backs to track down the killer herself. However, her investigation places her and her children in jeopardy. Also starring Sharon Duce, Geraldine James, Douglas Henshall, Matthew McNulty, Kenny Doughty, Honor Kneafsey, Oliver Woolford, Andrew Knott, Ace Bhatti, Carla Henry, Lisa Dillon, Andrew Gower and Ben-Ryan Davies.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.20** Yoga: Bend it Like Britain. **2.50** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.05** Formula 1 – Austrian Grand Prix: Highlights. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Countryfile.** The team visits East Yorkshire, where Ellie Harrison helps the RSPB check seabird numbers. John Craven, Bill Bailey and Naomi Wilkinson launch this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team return to Tredgar House near Newport. Among the finds are a locket that was a gift from Queen Victoria, a device used for creating tattoos, a classic car and a cigar cutter commemorating the opening of the Newport transporter bridge. Last in the series. **9.00** **Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.** Strange is determined to learn the secrets of fairy magic so he can restore Arabella. Believing madness is the key to accessing the fairy world, he seeks a way to drive himself insane. However, the Gentleman does not take kindly to the intrusion into his realm, and unleashes a terrible curse to stop him. Norrell's determination to maintain control of all magic in England costs him dearly when the government turns against him, and Vinculus offers Stephen a means to escape from the Gentleman's clutches. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **Live at the Apollo.** Rich Hall hosts the stand-up show recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo, doing his own thing before introducing routines by Mark Watson and Andrew Maxwell. (R) **11.15** **My Big Beautiful Wedding Dress.** Documentary meeting Jo and Alison, best friends and owners of a boutique bridal shop in Essex that specialises in wedding dresses for plus-size women. (R) **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Greatest Gardens. **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Box. (R) **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. (R) **12.30** Live Athletics: European Team Championships. Day two from Central Stadium in Cheboksary, Russia. **2.05** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Live coverage of the final at the Queen's Club in London, which was won by Grigor Dimitrov last year. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **5.35** Flog It! Claire Rawle and Michael Baggott value antiques in Longleat. (R) **6.20** **Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice.** (2010) A wizard living secretly in modern-day New York vows to prevent his mystical enemy from taking over the city. Realising that he is unable to complete the task alone, he recruits an ordinary teenager to be his assistant, teaching him to master the magical arts. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel and Alfred Molina. **8.00** **Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure.** Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain head into Guatemala as they continue their road trip, visiting Lake Atitlan to pay their respects to Mayan deity Maximon, exploring the ancient colonial city of Antigua and scaling the nearby active volcano Pacaya. (R) **9.00** **The BBC at War.** Part two of two. Jonathan Dimbleby reveals how the BBC provided coded information to resistance groups, and tells the stories of reporters working with military units during D Day. **10.00** **Film: Blood.** (2012) Premiere. Two policemen brothers living in the shadow of their father's reputation are consumed with paranoia after committing a crime. Thriller, with Paul Bettany and Brian Cox. **11.30** **The Clare Balding Show.** World Snooker champion Ronnie O'Sullivan; Olympic heptathlon champion Denise Lewis and England bowler Graeme Swann join Clare in the sports magazine chat show. Last in the series. (R) **12.00** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. A last-16 game (Kick-off 12.30am). **2.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Hobby City. (R) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **9.00** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.35** Off Their Rockers Blue Badge Special. (R) **3.05** Film: Jurassic Park III. (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill, William H Macy and Tea Leoni. **4.50** Midsomer Murders. Jones infiltrates a cult to investigate a woman's disappearance, but he and Barnaby soon start digging into an old case involving the death of a couple in a boat explosion. (R) **6.45** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **7.00** **ITV News; Weather.** **7.15** **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. **8.00** **Surprise Surprise.** New series. Holly Willoughby makes more dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public as the revived show returns for a fourth series. Lionel Richie surprises one of his biggest fans, two rugby fans enjoy the perfect sporting day out, and a tale of wartime romance leads to a family reunion that crosses the Atlantic. **9.00** **Black Work.** New series. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer investigating her husband's murder behind her colleagues' backs, a search that places her family in danger. **10.00** **ITV News; Weather.** **10.15** **Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.** Eight celebrities face a challenging 11-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, competing to remain in the programme and get through to the final. (R) **11.15** **Piers Morgan's Lie Stories: June Brown.** The EastEnders actress chats to Piers Morgan about her life and career, including her early work in the theatre and the challenges of juggling work and her home life. (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Cycling: The London Nocturne 2015. (R) **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** The Simpsons. (R) **9.00** The Simpsons. (R) **9.30** Saturday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) A teenager learns he is the son of Greek god Poseidon, and finds himself in the middle of a feud between immortals. Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **6.40** **Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild.** Kevin travels to the foothills of the Andes in Chile to meet a family of five from south London who quit the daily grind to build a new home in the shadow of an active volcano. (R) **8.00** **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015.** New series. George Clarke presents this year's competition. The first episode features normal sheds, which include a miniature railway shed, a makeshift observatory with a retractable roof and advanced telescope, a shed that doubles as a boat and a home cinema that is also home to a collection of movie memorabilia. The judges also cast their eyes over some environmentally friendly builds, including a shed shaped like an owl, a highland bothy, a geodesic dome and a building made entirely out of mud. **9.00** **Humans.** George is assigned a new Synth whom he cannot stand. Laura feels threatened by Anita, and Fred is held captive in Hob's facility, which leads him to fear for the human race. Sci-fi drama, starring William Hurt, Rebecca Front and Katherine Parkinson. **10.00** **Film: I, Robot.** (2004) A detective is convinced a robot has killed his creator, even though it has been programmed never to harm humans. Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith and Bridget Moynahan. **12.15** Rude Tube. (R) **1.10** Film: Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo. (1999) **2.40** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.35** The Renovation Game. (R) **4.30** SuperScrimpers. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.00** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.15** Roolbarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.20** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.05** Lazy Town. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.55** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Ultimate Police Interceptors. **12.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45** Film: Are We Done Yet? (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Ice Cube. **4.30** Film: The Hunchback of Notre Dame. (1998) Disney animation, with the voices of Tom Hulce and Demi Moore. **6.10** **Film: Monster-in-Law.** (2005) An unlucky-in-love woman thinks she has finally landed on her feet when she meets the man of her dreams. However, his meddling mother proves to be an overprotective nightmare who is adamant the would-be bride is Miss Wrong and hatches a plan to drive her away. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda. **7.55** **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** Dave Spikely and Ellie Taylor introduce one final compilation of animal antics, turning the spotlight back on to the hilarious hijinks of pets of all shapes and sizes, with resident animal behaviourist Professor Peter Neville on hand to explain the science behind the comical clips. Last in the series. (R) **9.00** **Big Brother.** Marcus Bentley narrates a round-up of highlights, including the latest round of nominations and the announcement of who is up for eviction on Friday night. **10.00** **Film: The Other Guys.** (2010) Two desk-bound incompetent cops get the chance to become heroes when they stumble across a tycoon's illicit activities. Action comedy, starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. **12.10** Manchester's Gang Wars: Exposed. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. A last 16 game (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.05** Family Guy **12.30** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.30** Great TV Mistakes **3.00** Where Am I Sleeping Tonight? **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2015 – The Final **9.30** Judi Dench in Conversation with Richard Eyre **10.30** Film: Iris (2014) **12.00** Glastonbury Golden Greats **1.00** Festivals Britannia **2.30** Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker **3.30** Close
ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.45** The Hot Desk: Alesha Dixon **1.55** Film: Marmaduke and Lyrics (2007) **4.00** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **5.55** Love Island **6.55** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **11.50** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **12.50** Love Island **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.25 Film: Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **1.30** Wycliffe **2.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **4.40** Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** The Little House **11.05** Film: The Human Star (2003) **1.15** Blue Murder **2.30** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
11.10 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.15** Pawn Stars **3.00** Film: Destry Rides Again (1959) **4.55** Film: The Far Country (1954) **7.00** A Cinderella Story **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.40** Film: Smokin' Aces (2007) **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Film: The Addams Family (1991) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Googlebox **12.10** The Goldbergs **1.10** Tattoos After Dark **2.10** Virtually Famous MIC Takeover **2.50** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Hollywoods
Film4
11.00 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **3.05** Porridge (1979) **5.00** Leap Year (2010) **7.00** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Enemy at the Gates (2008) **11.40** What Happens in Vegas (2008) **1.40** Whisper of the Heart (1995) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Man for All Seasons, BBC2, 3.15pm
Henry VIII's decision to divorce Catherine of Aragon leads to a clash with the Roman Catholic Church and his own lord chancellor Sir Thomas More. To force his will, the king declares himself the supreme head of the Church of England and demands More's approval – but when he fails to get it, he puts his former adviser on trial for his life. Oscar-winning adaptation of Robert Bolt's history play, with Paul Scofield. (1966)

TUESDAY
Sparkle, BBC1, 11.50pm
A Liverpoolian travels to London and ends up landing a job in the PR business. Sleeping with his female boss gives his career a welcome boost – but things become complicated when he falls for her daughter. Meanwhile, his pub singer mother also finds romance. Comedy drama, starring Shaun Evans, Stockard Channing, Bob Hoskins and Lesley Manville. (2006)



Fallen, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY
The 19th Wife, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. The wife of a member of a polygamous cult is accused of killing her husband, leaving it up to her excommunicated son to prove her innocence. Drama, starring Chyler Leigh, Matt Czuchry and Patricia Wettig. (2010)

THURSDAY
Garage Sale Mystery II: All That Glitters, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. Bargain hunter-cum-amateur sleuth Jennifer investigates when the owner of a storage unit is murdered, hours after an auction. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2014)

FRIDAY
Fallen, BBC1, 11.55pm
A detective investigates a series of grisly murders that mimic the handiwork of an executed serial killer. The case takes a stranger twist when he realises a bloodthirsty disembodied demon is responsible – and that it can leap from one unsuspecting host to another. Supernatural thriller, starring Denzel Washington, John Goodman, Donald Sutherland and Embeth Davidtz. (1998)

Kicking off the musical extravaganza in style

So why aren't you at Glasto this year? Perhaps you didn't fancy running the risk of getting up to your knees in mud, sharing the infamous portable toilets with 175,000 other people, or not washing properly for the best part of a week.

Or maybe you did want to go, but postponed it for another year, or were one of the unlucky thousands who just didn't manage to secure one of the prized festival tickets.

Well fear not, non-campers, the BBC is pulling out all the stops again this year to take viewers right to the heart of one of the biggest events in the global music calendar.

Presented for the first time under the BBC Music umbrella, this year audiences can hear the music and see what's exactly going on over three days at Worthy Farm in Somerset, from the big headline acts on the main stages, through to new and emerging talent.

Some of the BBC's best-known faces will deliver unparalleled coverage across TV, radio and digital platforms from six stages, including the BBC Introducing stage, starting

tonight (Friday) and continuing right through until after the final headlines finish on the Sunday evening.

It all kicks-off when The One Show's Chris Evans and Alex Jones present their usual show live from Glastonbury.

Then over on BBC Two, traditionally the home of the big headline acts, Lauren Laverne, Jo Whalley, and Mark Radcliffe, present coverage of the opening night's acts, culminating with the headline set by the Foo Fighters on the Pyramid Stage.

Greg James and Clara Amfo will be providing a younger perspective over on BBC Three, with headlines Rudimental being broadcast from the Other Stage later that night.

Throughout the weekend viewers can expect to see classic and contemporary acts on BBC Four, including Florence + The Machine and Paloma Faith.

Extended highlights of over performances from the Pyramid, Other, John Peel, West Holts and BBC Introducing stages will be available to watch on demand following the event.

As always this year's line-up has caused some debate.

He may divide opinion, but there's no denying rapper Kanye West will inject a healthy dose of the ridiculous into his headline set on the Saturday night.

Hit settlist will probably be made up of new tracks from his upcoming album SWISH, along with fan-favourites such as All of the Lights, Jesus Walks and Stronger.

Then on the Sunday, to celebrate their 50th anniversary, rock legends The Who will close Glastonbury, rounding off the weekend with famous singalongs My Generation, Pinball Wizard and Substitute.

Motown legend Lionel Richie takes pride of place on the Sunday afternoon 'Dolly Parton' slot this year, while there are also sets from established acts like Mary J Blige, Motorhead, Suede, Patti Smith, Paul Weller, The Chemical Brothers, as well as emerging talent such as Years & Years, Rae Morris, Wolf Alice, Soak, Saint Raymond, Sunset Sons and Tourist.



Florence and the Machine feature, Glastonbury 2015, Friday, BBC2, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Nigel Slater: Eating Together BBC1, 7.30pm
Nigel's tour of the flavours of Britain takes him from a classic Lancashire hotpot to three melt-in-the-mouth one-pot dishes with origins from around the world. He meets Yasmin, whose fesenjoon takes her back to her childhood in Iran, gets a lesson in Brazil's national dish feijoada from brothers Andre and Anderson, and discovers the delicate flavours of a traditional Bangladeshi korma as he joins Enam and his family to celebrate Eid. Inspired by their dishes, Nigel creates a luxurious bean hotpot bejewelled with beetroot and carrot.

The £100K House: The Final Fix BBC2, 8pm
In case you've missed both series of The House That £100k Built (it's popped up with little or no fanfare on BBC Two during the last couple of years), and the first part of this programme, the premise is simple: architectural historian Kieran Long (of Restoration Home fame) and architect Piers Taylor meet various couples who have a budget of £100k with which to construct the house of their dreams - and to date, they've witnessed some pretty amazing results. But, once the dust settled, how have the homeowners got on? Are they

still blissfully happy with their achievements? Last week, Taylor visited one batch of builders, and now he's catching up with a woman who constructed her property in the Scottish borders, as well as a couple of Devon farmers.

TUESDAY
The Bank: A Matter of Life and Debt BBC2, 9pm
Since the 2008 banking crash, the public's faith in banks is at an all-time low. Filmed over a year at the NatWest branch in Huddersfield, this series explores our tempestuous relationship with our finances and the banks we choose to help us look after them. NatWest is owned by RBS, which was bailed out by the government and is 79-per-cent owned by the taxpayer. So when their customers feel they aren't getting a fair deal, even more focus is placed on the bank. Deputy bank manager Claire is challenged to improve the branch's customer service score, but when customer Alan fumes over a missing cheque, and another, Chris, complains about the mortgage advice he's been given, this seems like an impossible task.



The £100K House: The Final Fix, Monday, BBC2, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Don't Tell the Bride BBC1, 8pm
The Bafta-nominated series, which follows the journey of couples as the groom is put in charge of planning their upcoming weddings, moves from BBC Three to BBC One. The opening edition focuses on bride-to-be Jenni and her fiancé Andrew. Jenni is one of life's romantics, but her confidence has been

knocked by a disability caused by pregnancy. As her dutiful carer, Andrew's romantic side seems to have fallen by the wayside as everyday demands take their toll. However, with three weeks and £14,000 to work with, Andrew is now planning a fun-filled, big top-themed wedding to give them both a break from their troubled lives. Can he pull it off? And will Jenni be happy with the results?

THURSDAY
Superhospital ITV, 9pm
Channel 4 has 24 Hours in A&E, while the BBC weighs in with An Hour to Save Your Life.

Now ITV is entering the medical docusoap stakes with a new series that takes viewers behind the scenes at the Royal Derby Hospital. Its producers visited 20 institutions and plumped for this one because it's a large, modern hospital which provides a wide range of services. But cameras won't be focusing on how the place is run. Instead, it's the human stories they want to capture, those involving both staff and patients. The opening episode introduces viewers to some of those they will get to know over the next four weeks, including Jayne, a sister on the liver ward, who loves her job and is about to celebrate 40 years in nursing.

FRIDAY
The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm
New series. Following three election specials aired earlier this spring, the award-winning show returns for a full series of irreverent satire as Adam Hills and co-hosts Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker tear into the week's main talking points. The trio offer their own unique insight into some of the most difficult and delicate issues in modern Britain, and answer that most important of questions: is it OK? As usual, they are joined by a live studio audience and a celebrity guest, which this week is actor, writer and director Stephen Merchant.

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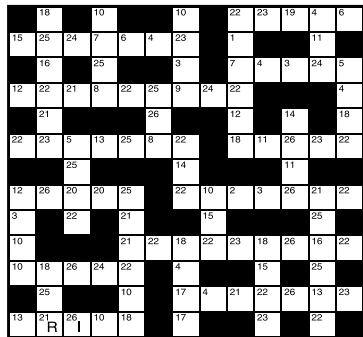
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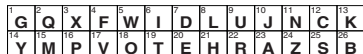
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Quiz

- In the novel Gulliver's Travels what was Gulliver's christian name?
- In which year did Castro seize power in Cuba?
- With which art form do you associate Louis Daguerre?
- Of which country was King Zog monarch?
- Which Oscar-winning actor was born Reginald Truscott-Jones?
- What is the 49th state of the United States of America?
- Which year saw the birth of Isaac Newton and the death of Galileo?
- When did the League of Nations come into being?
- In which country is the mountain Aconcagua?
- What does the musical term andante mean?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Our lot (4)
- Serving men and women operate from behind it (4-4)
- Get carried away (4)
- Don't allow to come out (8)
- Just one instance of an infectious disease? (8,4)
- Approaching the age of rebellion? (6)
- On average, one child is a clergyman (6)
- From which to draw money for the meat? (5,7)
- Countrymen give vegetables to workers (8)
- Kind of gun having catches reversed (4)
- I'd turn a sickly colour and refuse permission (8)
- You might say it when offering a gift or present (4)

Down

- Skin specialists (8)
- It is very boring and is due to be altered (7)
- Morning spent being entertained (6)
- Hope engendered by the will? (10)
- Sadie gets wrong thoughts (5)
- Some conversed in Gaelic (4)
- Service no longer used by gunners (10)
- Scent in a new form, for example (8)
- Dash off for coal (7)
- One who has benefited from America's troubles (6)
- Love slap up jewelery (5)
- Copied some cheap editions (4)

Quick Clues:

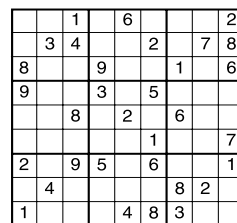
Across

- Properly (4)
- Progressed (8)
- Despatch (4)
- Scholarly (8)
- Preliminary (12)
- Get away (6)
- Battled (6)
- New birth (12)
- Not eatable (8)
- Fete (4)
- Blow up (8)
- A metal (4)

Down

- Scorned (8)
- Madman (7)
- Diversion (6)
- Extra (10)
- Singers (5)
- Nightfall (4)
- Finishing (10)
- Model (8)
- Wry face (7)
- Slutless; 13 Impost; 15 Astral; 18 Ignoble; 20 Brass; 22 Union; 23 Trivial; 24 Penetrating; 25 Plant; 3 Repress; 4 Please; 5 Inane; 6 Traitor; 7 Ignominious; 8 Senselessly; 14 Pen-sive; 16 Substist; 17 Better; 19 Binge; 21 Align.

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 High-pitched; 9 Adamant; 10 idiot; 11 Tress; 12 Chequer; 13 Reform; 15 Accout; 18 Income; 20 Urgent; 22 Chide; 23 Outrage; 24 Intemperate. Down: 2 Image; 3 Hoarser; 4 Intact; 5 Clive; 6 Epicure; 7 Masterpiece; 8 Star-studded; 14 Fiction; 16 Counter; 17 Recoup; 19 Niece; 21 Graft. QUICK - Across: 1 Appropriate; 9 Grapple; 10 Aware; 11 Outrage; 12 Slutless; 13 Impost; 15 Astral; 18 Ignoble; 20 Brass; 22 Union; 23 Trivial; 24 Penetrating; 25 Plant; 3 Repress; 4 Please; 5 Inane; 6 Traitor; 7 Ignominious; 8 Senselessly; 14 Pen-sive; 16 Substist; 17 Better; 19 Binge; 21 Align.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

692 gives a cereal grass,
48237 gives another cereal grass,
6512 gives a flower.



star★extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days
Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

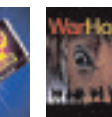
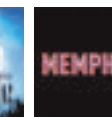
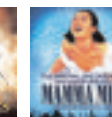
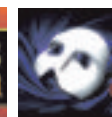
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Apartments proposed for grounds of Tettenhall College

Plans to turn land at an historic Wolverhampton School into dozens of apartments for the elderly have been lodged by developers. McCarthy and Stone want to build a total of 58 apartments on a large plot of vacant land at the grounds of Tettenhall College on Tettenhall Wood.

Bosses of the school say the sale of the land will help them in their long-term efforts to invest in new buildings and facilities.

The new apartments will be based on land

currently occupied by a car park. The flats will be for elderly residents who require a high level of on-site care.

The apartments, which would be staffed 24 hours a day, will also bring new jobs to the area with up to 17 new positions available should plans get given the green light.

The plans also include car parking and the creation of 'attractive' landscaped gardens.

The submitted plans comes just weeks after McCarthy and Stone consulted with residents

close by to the school, including inviting them to a public exhibition in April, which was attended by 60 residents.

McCarthy and Stone, a leading developer of retirement apartments, claim the arrival of the new apartments would help the housing needs of Wolverhampton's elderly residents.

It says there are only 252 private specialist housing units in the city for purchase, as opposed to rent, to meet the requirements of the elderly population.

Developers also say the application come a time when Wolverhampton's elderly population is expected to increase by 38 per cent by 2035.

Darren Humphreys, regional managing director at McCarthy and Stone said the application helps fulfil demand for accommodation.

"We've strived to introduce a scheme that respects the local Conservation Area and increases the housing choice for residents in later life, particularly those residents who

want to remain in a home of their own but require some additional care and support," he said.

"There is a strong and growing demand for Assisted Living accommodation and it is important that a community meets the housing need of all its residents."

The plans will be decided by Wolverhampton City Council's planning committee this year. The plans can be seen at www.mccarthyandstone-consultation.co.uk/woodroad.

Luxury cottage is part of converted paper mill site



PART of a converted paper mill, this superbly presented end terraced cottage lies in a sought after, picturesque location.

Having views over Hurcott Pool, Lancelot House, Kidderminster, has accommodation over three levels and is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £295,000.

The lower ground floor comprises an open plan re-fitted kitchen/family room, a conservatory and a utility/WC. The ground floor has an entrance hall opening to a large lounge with an open fireplace with slate hearth and bedroom three/study. The first floor has two double bedrooms with the master bedroom having a full en suite bathroom, and a house bathroom.

The property has gated rear access with private parking area/garden and communal gardens overlooking the lake.

To arrange a viewing call Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or go to www.hickshadley.com



Rare opportunity to buy country mansion

A HANDSOME property built in 1850, Stourton Court, in Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge, is an opportunity to purchase a stunning country home.

Positioned in beautiful South Staffordshire countryside, Stourton Court is on the market for the first time in more than 60 years with Halls at offers of around £895,000.

Easily accessible from all major towns and motorway networks Stourton Court is currently divided into six residential properties. As a whole Stourton Court offers an incredibly unique investment opportunity with potential planning permission for additional residential units.

For more information contact Halls on 01562 820880 or visit www.hallsgb.com



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Ideally placed for city centre and amenities



A BEAUTIFULLY presented three-bedroomed semi-detached house, 15 Hughes Road, Bilston is conveniently positioned for the city centre, university and local amenities.

It is for sale through Jackson Lile & Close at £124,000 with no chain.

It has a porch, reception hall, attractive lounge with a multi-fuel stove, conservatory, L-shaped breakfast kitchen with a breakfast bar, oven and gas hob with five burners, rear lobby/small utility, WC.

Shower

There are also three bedrooms, shower room, front garden and drive, large workshop and a rear garden with a metal store.

For further information contact 01902 712812 or visit www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk



Semi with parking for several vehicles

WITH parking for several cars, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Coalway Road, Penn, Wolverhampton also comes with a well maintained mature rear garden.

It is for sale through Whitegates Estate Agents at £185,000.

With gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has an entrance porch, hallway, a 27ft through living/dining room, breakfast kitchen and utility and garage and a full width front driveway.

On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. The rear garden includes a patio, decked area and a garden pond.

For further information contact Whitegates Estate Agents on 01902 429035 or visit www.whitegates.co.uk



Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk



NEW
DOWNING HOUSE, CATHOLIC LANE £349,950

- SEDGLEY**
- Modern detached house
 - Four bedrooms
 - Large breakfast kitchen
 - Utility room, ensuite shower room
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



7 CHARNWOOD AVENUE, SEDGLEY O/A £260,000

- Detached bungalow with three bedrooms
- Enjoying a wide plot at the head of a cul de sac
- L shaped living room comprising living area & dining area
- Tandem garage with further garage, attractive gardens
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



LAND ADJOINING 78 COCHRANE ROAD O/A £250,000

- HOLLY HALL**
- Level rectangular plot
 - Outline planning consent for:
 - Two pairs of three bedroom semi detached houses and
 - A terrace of three, three bedroom houses
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE



4 ELMWOOD RISE £249,950

- SEDGLEY**
- Detached house with four bedrooms
 - En suite shower room off bedroom one
 - Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room
 - Private rear garden with excellent views
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



94 ROBERT STREET £210,000

- DUDLEY**
- Traditional detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Partial gas central heating
 - Outline planning permission for detached bungalow
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



75 NORTHWAY £189,950

- SEDGLEY**
- Link detached house
 - Well maintained & presented
 - Three bedrooms
 - Private rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



12 CHEVENING CLOSE O/A £189,950

- SEDGLEY**
- Modern detached bungalow
 - Three bedrooms
 - Enervable position at head of cul de sac
 - Pleasantly landscaped gardens
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



54 MOUNT ROAD £179,950

- LANESFIELD**
- Traditional detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Improved & extended
 - Deceptive accommodation
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



13 BREEN RYDDING DRIVE O/A £169,950

- COSELEY**
- Three bedroom semi detached house
 - Improved & extended accommodation
 - Living room & dining area, conservatory
 - Study/living room, large bathroom
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



3 HIMLEY AVENUE £165,000

- DUDLEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Sitting room/bedroom four
 - Separate lounge & dining room
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



88 GROSVENOR ROAD £164,950

- ETTINGSHALL PARK**
- Extended semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Downstairs shower room
 - Larger than average private rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



63 CINDER ROAD O/A £159,950

- GORNAL**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - L shaped lounge/dining room
 - Shower room
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



55A SPRING ROAD £139,950

- LANESFIELD**
- Modern three bedroom detached house
 - Extended, well maintained & attractively presented
 - Situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location
 - Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



78 DEEPALE LANE £139,950

- LOWER GORNAL**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Well maintained accommodation
 - Excellent views towards Shropshire Hills
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



183 SEDGLEY ROAD O/A £139,950

- WOODSETTON**
- Modern semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Two reception rooms
 - Rear driveway & garage
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



179 TIPTON ROAD £129,995

- WOODSETTON**
- Spacious Victorian terraced house
 - Two large bedrooms
 - Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
 - Secure parking at rear
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



2A LANGLEY AVENUE O/A £124,950

- COSELEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Extended kitchen
 - Access to rear driveway
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F



21 HALL STREET O/A £119,500

- CRADLEY HEATH**
- Modern semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Well proportioned accommodation
 - Gas central heating
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



11 PRITCHETT AVENUE £111,950

- LANESFIELD**
- End of terrace house
 - Kitchen extension
 - Three bedrooms
 - Gas central heating & double glazing
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



91 QUEENS ROAD £85,000

- SEDGLEY**
- Ground floor flat
 - One bedroom
 - Fitted kitchen
 - Small private rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

Sedgley Office
01902 885894

Dudley Office
01384 459999

wakeman-online.com

Family detached includes two-bedroom bungalow



IDEAL for a discerning buyer with an extended family or with an aged relative or teenager, this six bedroomed detached property in Church Hill Drive, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton includes a two-bedroomed bungalow.

Architecturally designed and with underfloor heating, an air-source heating system and solar panel, it is for sale with Nick Tart at £849,950

It has a reception hall, WC, lounge, conservatory, dining kitchen with appliances, study/small sitting room, laundry, boot and control room, gym, principal bedroom suite en suite bathroom, three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

The bungalow has a hall, WC, sitting room, conservatory, main bedroom (en suite bathroom), further double bedroom and breakfast kitchen.

Call 01902 755585 or visit www.nicktart.com



Exceptional detached in a premier location

THIS exceptional detached residence in Larchmere Drive, Essington, lies on a corner plot in a premier location.

Beautifully presented throughout in neutral shades, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £310,000.

With gas central heating it has an entrance hall, WC, lounge with bay window and modern feature stone-effect fireplace with a gas fire, dining room with French doors to a conservatory, a spacious breakfast kitchen with wood-effect units, a utility, bedroom one with bay window and built-in wardrobe, en suite shower room, four further bedrooms, bathroom and a garage.

For further details, call 01922 478104 or visit www.skitts.net



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AUCTION

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13 Bramford Drive, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £49,000-£54,000



1 South Oval, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £68,000-£73,000



8 Junction Street, Dudley
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £19,000-£24,000



106 Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £64,000-£69,000



4 Derwent Close, Brierley Hill
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £59,000-£64,000



Land Daley Road, Bradley, Wolverhampton
Development Site Approx. 1,750 sq. m.
with Outline Permission for 7 Dwellings
Guide: £130,000-£140,000

T: 0121 233 5046

W: cpbigwood.com

@CPBigwood

*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots *For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

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New

WALL HEATH, Wheatridge Close

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL & SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED 'DAVID PAYNE' FAMILY HOME with a HUGE SECLUDED SIDE GARDEN plus rear garden, the private position enhances the INREDIBLY SPACIOUS layout of WELL PRESENTED accommodation, with THREE LARGE BEDROOMS (originally a four bedrooms layout) plus en-suite shower room. Set beyond Generous Front Driveway, with side Car port and Garage. EPC E

£319,950
New

DUDLEY, Montpellier Gardens, Milking Bank

EXCEPTIONALLY WIDE PLOT! Gas centrally heated, DOUBLE GLAZED detached comprising: reception hall, cloakroom, 20ft lounge (with bay), dining room (with patio doors), kitchen & large utility room. Four generous bedrooms (principal with shower room en suite and, three with built in wardrobes), bathroom with white contemporary suite, garage. Approx 26ft width between gable and boundary, extensive gardens beyond. Tremendous potential. EPC:TBA. SEDGLEY


DUDLEY, Hever Close, Milking Bank

ENVIABLY SITUATED in highly favoured cul de sac; EXTENDED, gas centrally, double glazed FIVE BEDROOM detached home comprising: hall, lounge, dining room, double glazed conservatory, hub of the house! 17ft kitchen, cloakroom, pantry, Five bedrooms (principal bedroom with both fitted and built in wardrobes & shower room en suite), bathroom. Garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £265,000
New price
WAS £255,000, NOW £247,000

WALL HEATH, Brook Crescent

AN OUTSTANDING, EXTENDED DETACHED FAMILY HOME within a very desirable location, enhancing the GENEROUS, BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED FOUR BEDROOM layout with EN-SUITE, plus LARGE DRIVEWAY, SUBSTANTIAL GARAGE and good sized rear gardens. EPC D

New price
£289,950

SEDGLEY, Gower Road, Northway

EXTENDED gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with good distant views comprising: enlarged entrance vestibule, 17ft living room, dining room with patio doors to uPVC CONSERVATORY, EXTENDED 18'3" kitchen, play/utility room & shower room. Three bedrooms (two with fitted units), bathroom. Wide garage, sheltered rear garden, block paved foregarden. EPC: TBA. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £212,500

SEDGLEY, Southerndown Road, Brownswall Estate

Outstanding, stylish, enlarged & improved gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising: hall, magnificent 24'9" through living/dining room (with wood burner), l shape/enlarged through kitchen, WC. Three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into loft), luxurious bathroom. Planning consent for extension to side, secluded garden, distant views. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £205,000

QUARRY BANK, Dunns Bank

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE A LARGE, MODERN, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME within this TRULY DESIRABLE address. Comprising: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master with En Suite), Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Garden. EPC C

Offers in Excess of £199,950

KINGSWINFORM, Celandine Close

Delightfully located within this highly desirable cul de sac, this MODERN LINK DETACHED BUNGALOW offers a generous layout which requires some cosmetic updating, plus LONG DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an attractive / secluded rear garden. EPC D

New price
£199,950

QUARRY BANK, Nottingham Way

FANTASTIC, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, LINK DETACHED HOME would make the perfect family home and comprises: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Garden. EPC: D

£149,950

COSELEY, Chad Road, Bramford Estate

An attractive conscientiously maintained freehold gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently situated within walking so many amenities. Accommodation comprises entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, lounge with bay, dining room (with patio doors), ENLARGED 15'5" kitchen. Three bedrooms recently re-appointed/ re-tiled bathroom with contemporary white suite, Garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £149,950

WOODSETTON, Vicarage Road West

uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, double fronted detached bungalow occupying an impressive plot set in established/convenient neighbourhood. Conscientiously maintained but would benefit from some sympathetic updating the accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, cloaks, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility room and an exceptionally large garage, gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

WAS £160,000, NOW £149,950

LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, intermediate "family home" within walking distance of village briefly comprising: hallway, living/dining room, rear hallway, store, upgraded kitchen, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom, Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woods. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price
WAS £146,000, NOW £142,500

TIPTON, Wood Street

Significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached most conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities together with bus & RAIL transport routes comprising: hall, lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, dining room, Three bedrooms, bathroom, Block paved foregarden, delightful garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

WAS £140,000, NOW £134,950

BRIERLEY HILL, Carder Drive

THIS UNIQUE, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED AND WELL ARRANGED, BUNGALOW RESIDENCE briefly comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room with Dining Area, Modern Kitchen, DOUBLE Bedroom, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E

Offers in Excess of £109,995

DUDLEY, Denbigh Close

Beautifully presented, Freehold, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom mid townhouse that will particularly appeal to first time buyers comprising: hall, lounge with attractive fireplace with marble effect inset & hearth and 'living flame' gas fire, Kitchen diner, Two bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Garden, parking space. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950

SEDGLEY, Whitesmith Close

Situated within flat walking distance of the Bull Ring; spacious, gas radiator centrally heated, double glazed First Floor apartment forming part of development managed by Accord Housing Association for owners aged 55 or over with warden facilities & stairlift comprising: lounge/dining room, kitchen, inner hallway, two double bedrooms, shower room. Allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950

PENSNETT/LOWER GORNAL, Sandfield Bridge

Traditional intermediate terrace of character set in established district within convenient distance of so many amenities and facilities briefly comprising: TWO double bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility-area, guest WC, first floor bathroom, uPVC double glazed with the rare advantage of concrete panel GARAGE at rear and a garden beyond. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

THIS THREE BEDROOM HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and ENCOMPASSES A LARGE REAR GARDEN and GAS CENTRAL HEATING. To comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Generous Bedrooms, Tarmac Frontage (No Dropped Kerb), Large Rear Garden. EPC E

£99,950
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Dudley Chronicle

Thursday, June 18, 2015



DUDLEY, Mansion Close, 'Earls Keep'

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached on corner plot with landscaped grounds in cul de sac with Hall, fitted cloaks, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, FOUR BEDROOMS (principle with wardrobes & shower en suite), bathroom, garage, delightful garden forming a fine feature. EPC- D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Winrush Close

SPACIOUS, stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed four (potentially five) bedroom detached convenient for the village with lengthy garden & distant views. Accommodation set over three floors provides; hall, cloaks, family room/alternative bedroom, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory. Four bedrooms (principal with en suite), bathroom, garden. EPC :C. SEDGLEY



TIPTON, Oxford Way (close to Foxyards)

SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in favoured 'Foxes Hollow' development comprising; porch, hall, two stores, dining room, lounge with access to family room beyond (former garage), kitchen, utility section. Principle bedroom with a shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom. Landscaped garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of **£244,000**

Offers in the region of **£235,000**

New price

WAS **£214,950**, NOW **£209,950**



DUDLEY, Parkway Road

TRADITIONAL, SUBSTANTIAL AND EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME overlooking GRANGE PARK with FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS and THREE RECEPTION ROOMS. Comprising: Hall, Kitchen, Conservatory, TWO BATHROOMS, Guests Cloakroom, Driveway, Large Garden EPC D



SEDGLEY, Ashen Close, Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED backing on to open fields. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow that has been upgraded, with PLANNING CONSENT for rear extension comprising; hallway, cloaks, refitted kitchen, 17'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, store, two bedrooms (both with fitted units & principal bedroom with patio doors out to the garden), bathroom. Gated driveway, garage, and sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Flavells Lane

FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION ! - gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached comprising; porch hall lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, shower room. To the first floor are two double bedrooms; 27 ft car port, delightful garden EPC:D SEDGLEY



BRIERLEY HILL, Fennel Road

THIS SPACIOUS & ATTRACTIVELY FURNISHED, DETACHED BUNGALOW is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and is located within CLOSE PROXIMITY to LOCAL AMENITIES. Comprising: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden. EPC D



GORNAL WOOD, Windsor Close

Enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed link-detached in cul-de-sac just off Guys Lane briefly comprising; hallway, lounge, kitchen, store, enlarged dining room, three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white suite, WC, 23ft garage, 'sun trap' rear garden. EPC Rating TBA. SEDGLEY

New price

£189,950

Offers in the region of **£189,950**

Offers in the region of **£184,950**

£175,000

Offers in the region of **£170,000**



KINGSWINFORD, Wolverhampton Road

A VERY LARGE & STUNNING FIRST FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT with GARAGE and PARKING SPACE, set within this converted period building, offering an EXPENSIVELY RE-APPOINTED, TASTEFULLY DECORATED LAYOUT and GENEROUS accommodation. EPC D



UPPER GORNAL, Harvest Close

RARE OPPORTUNITY! A gas centrally heated semi detached bungalow for improvement ENVIABLY SITUATED in cul-de-sac within immediate walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities. Accommodation includes; hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, inner hallway. Two bedrooms, bathroom. Potential garage space (subject to regulations), sheltered rear garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY



QUARRY BANK, Lawnsdown Road

SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY situated in this POPULAR LOCATION with FANTASTIC POTENTIAL TO CREATE A LOVELY HOME. Comprising: Hall, Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, Utility, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Established Rear Garden EPC C



KINGSWINFORD, Poplar Road

Located within a cul de sac, a short distance from the heart of Kingswinford, this WELL PRESENTED SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW is enhanced by a GOOD SIZED LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. With low maintenance fore garden, DRIVEWAY and SIDE CARPORT. EPC D



DUDLEY, Garrick Close, Earls Keep

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, double glazed, CENTRALLY HEATED, 2nd Floor Apartment with 'entry phone' system comprising hall, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen. Communal grounds, parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price

£129,950

New price

WAS **£135,000**, NOW **£129,950**

£119,995

No upward chain

£114,950

Offers in the region of **£109,999**



PENSNETT, Milton Street

THIS SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME or BUY-TO-LET INVESTMENT. Comprising: Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Driveway. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: D



BRIERLEY HILL, Limes Avenue

THIS ATTRACTIVE & WELL PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM HOME is DECEPTIVELY LARGE and would make a LOVELY FIRST TIME BUY. Comprising: Hall, Well Fitted Modern Kitchen, Attractive Sitting Room, TWO BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Lovely Rear Garden. EPC:E



LOWER GORNAL, Park Road

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached with potential comprising hall, lounge, store, kitchen, dining room (with patio doors). Two double bedrooms, bathroom; separate toilet. Secluded rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



BROCKMOOR, Wilson Road

Great opportunity to acquire a BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM HOME comprising: Porch, Hall, Contemporary Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, TWO FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Modern Bathroom, Lovely Rear Garden. EPC: D



NETHERTON, St. Georges Road

THIS SEMI-DETACHED HOME offers a fantastic opportunity to purchase your FIRST HOME or acquire a BUY-TO-LET INVESTMENT. Comprising: Hall, Lounge being open plan to Kitchen Diner, GENEROUS DOUBLE BEDROOM, Bathroom, Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: D

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Offers around £132,500



NEW

**PENSNETT
BROMLEY**

A well presented Modern 3 Bedroom Intermediate Townhouse providing deceptively spacious gas centrally heated (not tested) and Upvc double glazed accommodation ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or investor and is very conveniently situated opposite Bromley Hill Primary School. Briefly comprises: Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances (not tested), 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, refitted Bathroom with shower, enclosed rear Garden and driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC=D

Purchase Price £100,000



NEW

**PENSNETT
ROOKERY PARK**

This 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or investor in this popular and convenient address and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Although requiring certain cosmetic improvements the property offers tremendous further scope and briefly comprises: Hall, Lounge, separate Dining Room, fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 good sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, good sized rear Garden and off road parking to front. EPC=D

Offers around £94,950



REDUCED

**QUARRY BANK
WEST STREET**

This superbly presented, distinctively styled 2 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow provides GAS C/ HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom enjoying a host of modern comforts including solar panels and an integrally fitted vacuuming system. Hall, spacious Lounge, superbly fitted Kitchen with built-in oven, hob, integrated fridge and freezer and dishwasher, Laundry/Utility Room, stylishly fitted Wet Room, 2 First Floor Bedrooms, First Floor W.C., pleasant low maintenance rear Gardens with sunny aspect and driveway for two cars to the side. EPC=C

Offers around £189,000



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Offers around £139,950



REDUCED

**DUDLEY WOOD
DUDLEY WOOD ROAD**

Pleasantly situated in this popular, respected address, this spacious 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides mostly GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires certain upgrading and improvement represents an excellent opportunity for the young family. With NO UPWARD CHAIN includes :- Hall, spacious Lounge, sep Sitting / Dining room, Kitchen, 3 good sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, long side Garage, pleasant mature long rear Gardens with Westerly aspect and Driveway to the front. EPC=D

Offers around £124,950



REDUCED

**TIVIDALE
FAIRWAY AVENUE**

This attractively presented, lovingly maintained 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address. Hall, attractive Lounge, sep Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, double glazed CONSERVATORY, Laundry/Utility Room with Downs W.C., Useful Store and Workshop off, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, pleasant rear Garden and neat Driveway to front. EPC=C

Offers around £124,950



REDUCED

**QUARRY BANK
WINDING MILL SOUTH**

An attractively presented 3 Bed Intermediate Townhouse pleasantly situated on popular development providing refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE glazed accom ideally suited to the First Time Buyer or young family. Porch/Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob and adjoining Dining Area, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant lawned enclosed rear Gardens and car parking available for residents close by. EPC=G

Offers around £109,950



REDUCED

**BROCKMOOR
STATION ROAD**

This stylishly refurbished 3 Bed End Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom set over 3 floors and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Spacious Lounge, sep Dining Room, large "L" Shaped refitted Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Utility Room, stylish Downs Shower Room, 2 good Bedrooms, Master/Attic Room with "contemporary" refitted Bathroom to the second floor, side garage (side), driveway parking and large rear Garden with potential for BUILDING PLOT or extension (subject to regulations etc). EPC=G

Offers around £124,950



REDUCED

**BRIERLEY HILL
ADELAIDE STREET**

£750 PAID TOWARDS LEGAL COSTS ! Providing deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer, young family or INVESTOR, this well presented 2 Bed Intermediate Terrace is pleasantly situated in this established and very convenient address and briefly comprises:- Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Large Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower and enclosed Rear Garden/yard. EPC=F

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THIS three-bedroom semi-detached home in Lickley Road, Stourbridge is for sale through Select Property Management at £145,000 with no chain.

Close to the bus station and train station, this property has an entrance hall, lounge with conservatory off, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. With double glazing and gas central heating and a pleasant rear garden, the garage has been partially converted to provide an additional room. Contact Select Property Management on 01384 277701 or visit www.selectsalesandlettings.com



Extended detached home in sought-after location



THIS modern and extended detached family home in Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford, is well placed for excellent local schools. It is for sale through Taylors estate agent at £227,950.

Within a sought after location, it includes an entrance porch, an entrance hall, large full depth lounge, a separate dining/breakfast room, a utility room, ground floor WC, a large garage, driveway parking, three good-sized bedrooms and a luxury re-fitted bathroom.

It also has gas central heating and double glazing and an established and secluded rear garden.

For further information contact Taylors on 01384 401777 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Lotus Evora even better

By Anthony Martyn

Lotus Cars has announced the prices of the new Evora 400. The latest supercar from Lotus combines high performance with the legendary Lotus benchmark handling and is lighter, more efficient and dynamically better than ever, providing a purer driving experience.

UK prices will start from £72,000. For this price the car has a high level of standard specification including 370 mm composite two piece brake discs from AP Racing, limited slip differential, automatic air-conditioning and infotainment system including satellite navigation. In addition to this, the options

list includes automatic transmission at £2,000, Alcantara or Leather trim upgrades at £2,500 and metallic paint at £900.

A Black Pac" option, at £1,250, provides a distinctive look, with selected exterior panels including the roof, sills and centre section of the three-element rear wing in gloss black and a dark headlining in the interior. Lightweight forged alloy wheels can be fitted for £2,000 and cruise control and yellow or black brake callipers priced at £300 each.

Jean-Marc Gales, CEO, Group Lotus plc states: "We know that the Lotus Evora 400 can deliver the performance of a car costing significantly more and we are conscious that the pricing is highly competitive. Yet, the greatest merit which no other sports car or supercar can deliver is a peerless Lotus driving experience."

"The Evora 400 is the fastest road-going Lotus that we have ever produced. It deliv-



'The new Lotus Evora 400 laps the Lotus test track at Hethel six seconds faster than the previous Evora S.'

ers supercar looks allied to supercar performance and our global dealer network of 179 dealers which will grow to 200 by the end of the year is excited to be able to deliver this high performing benchmark handling supercar to the ever growing customer waiting list."

The new Lotus Evora 400 laps the Lotus test track at Hethel six seconds faster than the previous Evora S in a time of 1 minute 32 seconds. Combining high performance with the legendary Lotus benchmark handling, it is faster and dynamically more capable than the previous Lotus Evora lead-

ing to greater agility and a more involving drive.

Maximum speed is 186 mph (300 km/h) and acceleration 0-60 mph is just 4.1 seconds (0-100 km/h in 4.2 seconds). Over two thirds of the Lotus Evora 400 is new, including its supercharged and charge-cooled mid-mounted 3.5-litre V6 engine producing 400 horsepower and 410 Nm of torque.

A new aluminium chassis incorporates a new interior and the lightweight composite body has changed significantly both front and rear.





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Swift SZ3 official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 64.2 (4.4), combined from 56.5 (5.0). Official CO2 emissions 116g/km.

Fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. 0% APR representative on Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase. Maximum 43 month term. Terms and Conditions apply. Offer available on registrations of Suzuki Swift SZ3 between 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015, subject to availability. Offer excludes 5dr SZ3 4x4. This finance offer is at a rate better than that of High Street lenders. The offer above is available from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. Finance is provided, subject to status by Suzuki Financial Services Ltd. Applicants must be 18 years or over and UK resident (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Financial Services Ltd reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. Suzuki Financial Services Ltd, part of Lloyds Banking Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Suzuki Financial Services.



Big future for new Captur

By Graham Breeze

Renault's track record in the small car sector is up there with the best so it's little wonder that the new Captur is making waves in the supermini crossover market.

It's the company's first foray into the sector with chic looks, plenty of versatility, is fun to drive and well kitted-out for life on the move.

Captur sets itself apart from the pack with muscular bodywork, built on the same underpinnings as the highly successful Clio but with a longer platform, a more spacious cabin, extra load space and wider tracks to ensure the looks are matched by handling performance.

Captur is available in the UK in four trims,

starting with the entry level Expression+ that includes 16inch alloy wheels, cruise control, manual air conditioning, Renault's hands-free key card with push button start, front fog lights, body coloured bumpers, Electronic Stability Control and Traction Control, electric windows front and rear and electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors. The entry model also gets Hill Start Assist (HSA), trip computer and Renault's ECO system for maximising fuel and emissions efficiency.

The Dynamique Nav comes with Renault's integrated, tablet-style seven-inch touchscreen display. As well as the Navteq Nav'n'Go satellite navigation system, it enables access to on-board connectivity and a growing range of apps for information, entertainment and easier journeys.

A four-speaker Arkamys® audio system, Bluetooth and a USB port are included in the specification, along with 17-inch alloys and a cornering function in the front fog lights.

Seat covers that can be unzipped and machine washed at home are also featured, another of Captur's useful innovations that families are sure to appreciate.

On test was the next model in the range, Dynamique S Nav, which also has rear parking sensors, a folding function on door mirrors and extra-tinted rear window and tailgate glass and hitting the road at £18,495. Options fitted included metallic paint, heated front seats, European mapping, Tom-Tom navigation, interior style pack, R-Link multimedia system and rear parking camera pushed the price up to £19,195.

The dCi90 had a top speed of 106mph and 0-62mph in 13.1seconds but more importantly produced combined fuel figures of



.....
'Chic looks, plenty of versatility, is fun to drive and well kitted-out for life on the move.'

76.4mpg – Renault claim 83.1mpg on the extra urban cycle and just 95g/km of emissions.

Inside there's ample room for five passengers and the 60/40 split rear bench can be slid forwards or backwards or folded flat. The boot is big enough too, offering a variable boot floor and 455 litres of space, easily passing the golf club test.

On the road there's very little engine or wind noise, though the suspension is a lit-

tle noisy when put to the test. You get six airbags, stability control, emergency brake assist and hill-start assist as standard on the entire range and the Captur achieved a five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating. There are deadlocks and a Thatcham approved immobiliser.

A week behind the wheel was long enough to suggest that this model has a big future in the UK where the supermini crossover sector continues to grow.

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Incarnation seven for Vauxhall's new Astra

By James Parker

Vauxhall has revealed images of the all-new seventh-generation Astra, which will reach production later this year at the company's Ellesmere Port manufacturing plant in Cheshire.

Based on an all-new lightweight vehicle architecture with a new design, powertrains and technology, Astra will receive its world premiere at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show in September.

The Astra is a household name for British car buyers with over 2.9 million sold in the UK over the last 36 years with over 50,000 last year.

Depending on the model and trim level it will be up to 200kg (130kg on average) lighter than its predecessor. The completely new vehicle architecture plays a major role in the weight reduction. Every component was checked for compact design and lightweight materials. The body shell weight alone was reduced by 20 per cent from 357kg to 280kg.

Additional, chassis-related measures resulted in a further 50kg weight loss. These include high-strength and ultra-high-strength low-weight steels, compact subframes as well as weight reductions to the front and rear axle.

Engines

The all-new Astra features a powertrain including petrol and diesel units ranging from 100PS to 200PS. The highlight of the engine range is the all-new 1.4-litre (145PS) ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo, a four-cylinder unit from the same family as the one-litre, three-cylinder engine seen in Corsa, ADAM and VIVA.

The engine delivers maximum torque of up to 250Nm, with maximum power available between 1,800rpm and 4,000rpm.

Based on its construction, the new 1.4 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo also adds less weight to the car. The aluminium engine block weighs in at 10kg less than the cast-iron block of the current 1.4-litre turbo. There's also a base-level 1.0 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo (105PS) petrol engine and a 1.6 CDTi 'Whisper Diesel' range with outputs starting from 110PS up to 160PS.

Inspired by 2013's Monza Concept, the lean design makes the new Astra look more athletic than before thanks to work carried out by a design team led by Brit Mark Adams.

The most significant design cue is the divided C-pillar, creating the impression of a floating roof. The interplay of light and shadow is emphasised by the horizontal crossbar above the brand logo linking the rear lights.

The Astra does not just look smaller – it is smaller. With a total length of 4.37m it is almost 5cm shorter than its predecessor. With a height of 1.46m it is also 2.6cm lower. The dimensions have an impact on aerodynamics and efficiency with the new Astra boasting a drag coefficient below 0.30.

The wheelbase may have been reduced by 2cm but the amount of space inside increased. In combination with newly-designed seats, the passengers in the rear can enjoy an additional 35mm legroom. The distance between the front- and rear-seats is increased providing comfort and space.

Aesthetic

The high-quality cockpit and the instrument panel transfer the characteristic and aesthetic exterior design to the interior, ensuring that a new interior design generation is introduced in the new Astra. It features a clean look which includes a large colour touchscreen in the centre stack and reduced amount of control switches and buttons.

The new Astra is the first new Vauxhall model that will be available with the personal connectivity and service assistant OnStar from its launch. OnStar also turns the new Astra into a 4G LTE mobile Wi-Fi hotspot. Up to seven devices, from smartphones to tablets, can be connected simultaneously.

Making its debut in new Astra is the new generation IntelliLink infotainment system that is compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. The functions can be controlled via the large, up to eight-inch touchscreen located high on the center stack, via remote control on the steering wheel (volume) or via voice control.

The all-new Brit-built Astra will be the first Vauxhall to get glare-free IntelliLux LED Matrix Light. Bringing premium technology to the mainstream, these new LED headlights provide outstanding night time performance enhancing safety for the driver and those around them.

Another advantage is that mechanical movements are no longer necessary in the headlight – the individual LED segments turn on or off according to the situation, which also contributes to a durability that far exceeds the lifespan of a car.



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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (L/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model shown for illustrative purpose only. Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC ES Plus 5 dr – cost when new £15,395. Terms and Conditions: 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0.0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years Complimentary Servicing includes: all scheduled servicing as detailed in the vehicle service book for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Complimentary Servicing: £930 saving is only available on vehicles purchased through Honda Aspirations. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the cover remains with the vehicle. Offer available between the 1st June 2015 and 30th June 2015 inclusive on participating models between 90 and 180 days old, with a starting mileage of 50 miles or less.

Takes rough with smooth

By James Parker

Subaru is perhaps best known for its firecracker, all-wheel drive Impreza, a car which made its name in rallies throughout the world.

Less well known, but equally impressive in its own way is the Forester, a five-door, five-seater SUV off-roader with a big reputation for tackling the rough stuff, but surprisingly able on the road thanks to the legendary Boxer engine and clever suspension set up.

This two litre, 240bhp petrol unit delivers performance in spades, with hot-hatch acceleration, yet delivering a claimed 33-odd mpg, a figure some off-road diesels would look at with envy, while CO2 emissions of

197g/km are competitive, but will still attract a high rate of benefit in kind taxation.

It's not cheap, but is packed with standard kit, especially the model driven here.

A five-door, five-seater SUV with steel unitary construction bodysheet, the turbo-charged Boxer engine drives the front and rear wheels via a six-speed Lineartronic CVT transmission.

It has high ground clearance, a boxy shape with muscular wheel arches and prominent running plates, but the XT model has a sporty edge and includes sports grille and bumpers, heated, power-folding door mirrors, roof rails, powered tailgate, twin exhausts and eye-catching 18-inch alloy wheels.

It has a commanding driving position; generous interior space and cargo capacity. Off-road capability has also been improved with the firm's X-Mode technology.

The interior of the car matches the exterior pretty much. It won't have people drooling over design cues, but it remains well-built with instrumentation and controls logically placed, but the dark trim can make it feel a bit gloomy.

The seats are all firm and supportive while the car has acres of head and legroom while all round visibility is good. The car offers an impressive range of standard equipment, even for the entry model while the range-topper tested here had extra bits and bling like electric sunroof, eight-way powered heated leather seats, rear vision camera, infotainment screen housing sat nav and audio, privacy glass, engine start button, keyless access and dual zone air con.

Everything feels robust and sturdy and



'Big reputation for tackling the rough stuff, but surprisingly able on the road.'

kind of sums the whole vehicle up. Its a big car with big interior and stowage spaces with the boot offering 505 litres with the seats up and 1,592 litres to the roof, with them folded.

The 60/40 split rear seats fold at the touch of a button and this range-topper features an electrically-powered boot opening.

Safety is more than catered for with a five-star Euro NCAP crash safety rating

and includes twin front, side, curtain and knee airbags, stability and traction and hill descent control, while the trailer stability control programme also improves safety during towing.

There are six trim levels all with a generous level of standard equipment. Big and rugged and equally at home off road or on the road.

It's a lot of car for the money. Price: £30,995



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Attractive newcomer setting new standards

By James Parker

ŠKODA is once again making its mark with the new ŠKODA Superb. Just months after the debut of the hatchback, comes the new ŠKODA Superb Estate. Based on innovative MQB technology, this attractive newcomer sets new standards in its segment in terms of space, comfort, safety and connectivity. The new ŠKODA Superb Estate has the largest interior space and luggage compartment in its class. The total boot volume is nearly 2,000 litres. At the same time, the new and expressive ŠKODA design transforms the new-generation model into a stylish estate with dynamic elegance.

"With the new ŠKODA Superb Estate, we have further developed the existing strengths of the Superb and once again set a benchmark. With its expressive, dynamic design, we are emphasising and complementing ŠKODA's expertise in the estate segment," said Dr Frank Welsch, ŠKODA board member for technical development. "The combination of aesthetics, top-of-the-range technology and the highest practical benefits makes the new Superb Estate an outstanding vehicle within its segment. With the new flagship, we will attract new customers to our brand," said Welsch.

Worldwide

ŠKODA has offered an estate version of its top model, the ŠKODA Superb, since 2009. To date, ŠKODA has delivered more than 200,000 ŠKODA Superb Estate models to customers worldwide. This represents 35 per cent of all ŠKODA Superbs sold since 2009.

The new ŠKODA Superb Estate offers the best interior space in its segment. It is based on MQB technology, with a wheelbase that has been extended by 80mm to 2,841mm. The track width has increased to 1,584mm at the front and to 1,572mm at the rear. The result: even more interior space. In the latest model, driver and passenger have 39mm more elbow room than before.

Headroom in the front is 995mm and 1,001mm in the rear – more than in any other model in the segment. Rear knee-room is 157mm – around twice as much as the next-best competitor. Elbow room in the rear has been increased by 70mm.

Impressive

The boot volume also sets a new benchmark: 660 litres, representing an increase of 27 litres compared to the previous model. When the back seats are folded down, the boot volume reaches an impressive 1,950 litres.

The design of the new ŠKODA Superb Estate makes a powerful statement. The design is more passionate, modern and emotionally charged than ever before.

The use of MQB technology also plays a central role when it comes to styling: the longer wheelbase, the shortened front overhang as well as the widened track provide balanced proportions and create the car's extremely dynamic and sporty impression.

In combination with increased vehicle length, a long wheelbase, shortened front overhang, a sweeping roof line and a steeply angled rear window, the silhouette evolves as a stylistically confident, perfect entity. The front and rear are expressive and unmistakably ŠKODA.

The new ŠKODA Superb Estate comes with a veritable armada of new assistance systems for increased safety, eco-friendliness and comfort. Like the Superb hatchback, the new Superb Estate also features Dynamic Chassis Control (DCC).

Thanks to the new EU6 engines, the latest edition is more powerful and at the same time up to 30 per cent more efficient than its predecessor.

Connectivity reaches a new level of quality: the latest generation of infotainment systems automatically connects to all standard smartphones via SmartLink (MirrorLink™, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto technology). The optional high-speed internet connection turns the new Superb Estate into a ŠKODA hotspot on wheels.

In September, the new ŠKODA Superb Estate will make its motor show debut at the 66th International Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, Germany.

The new model will be launched into the first markets in the same month, while UK ŠKODA retailers will start taking orders from June.



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XC90 is serious business

By Ian Donaldson

When the first XC90 appeared in the UK back in 2002 some potential buyers admired this trendsetting new SUV in the showroom, before telling Volvo dealers 'it's not expensive enough'.

Which shows there are always people with more money than sense. The company bonus culture was responsible and Volvo had never experienced anything like it.

How did the sensible Swedes react? They quickly developed a UK-only version with all the bells and whistles on board, at a price that over-compensated company buyers thought let everyone know they could afford one – easily.

No such problem with the all new XC90, built high and handsome in a gently understated way and priced from £47,750 to £63,705. Nobody would describe that as underpricing, but do you get what you pay for?

The short answer is yes; buyers who head for the XC90 at the bottom of the price ladder will not only be buying by far the expected most popular version, but they'll end up with a car that comes well enough equipped to need little else adding.

That's rather rare in a part of the market where car makers know there is a large fortune to be made from the options' list. More of that later.

Let's look at the newcomer in more detail.

It is that genuinely rare machine – a vehicle new from tip to stern, with new engines.

The whole thing must have cost Volvo's Chinese owners a large fortune to design and develop.

Just as well it was worth it.

Built in Sweden, it radiates subtle Nordic charm in a way that a rival like BMW's X5 would hardly comprehend. Elegant good taste emanates from everything, taking in a bold new grille and body lines deliberately kept simple.

Quality

Inside, the good taste continues, beautiful build quality obvious everywhere and a mere eight buttons indicating that all the other controls, for things like sound system, heating and ventilation and the satellite navigation have been loaded onto a big, clear touchscreen.

Every XC90 destined for the UK, for the moment at least, will have all-wheel drive, automatic transmission and seven seats, with enough room in row three for two adults up to 5ft 7in tall. All seven seats have thinner than usual seat backs, without sacrificing any of the long-distance comfort long associated with Volvo, and helping free up useful extra leg room.

Calling the least expensive Momentum level 'basic' does the car much less than justice, as it comes with all of the above, as well as a tailgate that opens with a waggle of a foot below the rear bumper, a multiple-adjustable and electrically-powered driver's seat and leather trim.

And don't forget a 10-speaker sound sys-



.....
'It radiates subtle Nordic charm in a way that a rival like BMW's X5 would hardly comprehend.'
.....

tem and big, 19in alloy wheels too. So, miles away from basic in anyone's language.

Pay more and there are things like bigger wheels and added styling flourishes, but the entry level will suit most people just fine.

So will the new diesel engine, that pulls quietly and has enough pep to push this big car along at a satisfying lick, recording a reasonable 34mpg in the process on

some demanding North Yorkshire roads.

Rather quicker still and dearer (from £53,745 for an Inscription model) is a petrol engine with 320 horsepower and the ability to explore licence losing speeds very easily, recording an indifferent 26mpg in the process.

They won't sell a lot of those.

The diesel is a different matter. Here is a very serious new contender if you want a big SUV in your life.



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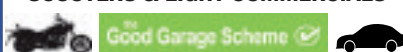
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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vets

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5 Business & Farming

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manufacturing

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motor trade

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Vauxhall experience an advantage.

Excellent remuneration for the right person.

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part time - general

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Trimat Limited, Brierley Hill DY5 1UF

Closing date 26th June 2015

STOKE ON TRENT 4-5 JULY

TELFORD 8-9 JULY

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Apply by e-mail to Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright at editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk by 5pm on June 26.

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The ideal candidate will possess the following attributes:
* At least two years relevant experience
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The role on occasion may require the delivery/collection of equipment, so a full valid driving license is required.

If you are interested in this vacancy please apply in writing, enclosing your CV, to our HR department: hr@arbil.co.uk, or to our postal address: HR Department Arbil Ltd, Providence Street, Lye, West Midlands DY9 8HS

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY DUDLEY COUNTY COURT NO 448 of 2007 RE: GEMMA HELEN RAY

D.O.B: 1 November 1986

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Alternatively, you can contact my office at Official Receivers Office, RTLU North West, 2nd Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M1 3BN or telephone 0161 2348500 to supply a form.

Mayale Mulang, Dividend Officer

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6

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8

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belt changed, p/steer.
£3,800
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CONVERTIBLE**
Hard top, 5 door, black, good
condition. Top of range model, low miles.
Very good condition,
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MOT and June, fsh, black, good
condition, £2,100 ono.
Wombourne 07870 339746.

MAZDA MX 5, 2004, 69,000 miles,
blue, electric windows, MOT, alloys,
CD, leather interior, service history,
2 owners, £3,199 ono.
07810 776021.

MAZDA MX5, 2002, 38,000 miles,
silver, 1.8i, long MOT, excellent
condition, £2,995. 01902 693013.

MAZDA MX5 SE, Roadster, 12
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miles, MOT, £11,500. Please call
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Auto 2002, full leather, electric
heated front seats, alloys,
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parking sensors, MOT April
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Very Clean Car £2,000
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28,000 miles, full MOT, must be
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42k. Showroom condition, company
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5 door, 2009, 42,589 miles,
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£3,700 ono.
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CDTI SRI**
5dr hatch, Reg NA11 PGO,
18,000 miles, excellent
condition, black, 17 inch alloys,
air con, front and rear park
sensors, CD radio, MOT 2016,
60mpg
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£7,995 ovno.
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months MOT, good condition, black,
65,000 miles, used daily £1,595.
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2002, silver, 4 months MOT, alloys,
good condition. £350. 07842
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metallic paint, central locking,
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07531 462624.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6, 2005, long
MOT, a/c, e/w, pas, great practical
family car, £1,295 ono.
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CITROEN PICASSO SX, February
2003, full MOT, drives superb,
75,000 miles, light blue, £795.
07835 074159.

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clearance trade sale. Lots of bar-
gains. 07585 664389. WV14 8AA.

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Apr 16, reliable and nippy, bargain
for quick sale £495. 07804 652220.

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alloy wheels, stereo. Great condi-
tion, cheap to run. £775 ono.
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FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec S, 1999,
MOT, black, 60k, excellent condi-
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07811 113680.

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Bike riders cope well on Wales' wet ways

HALESOWEN Cycling Club headed off to Cardiff for the fifth round of the National Series for the Junior Racing.

The course was set out on closed roads just across from the castle with the finishing straight set out Tour de France style.

The early rain did not dampen the mood of the contestants on this technical h-shaped course although it did produce the odd crash.

First up for Halesowen was Ella Harris in the girls U-8 and she did well to podium in third position.

Her older brother Luke then raced in the U-10 which saw an early lone breakaway.

Luke quickly established himself in a select chasing pack and although they narrowed the gap to six seconds, at the end Jed Smith from Hillingdon hung on for victory with Luke taking an impressive fourth place.

The U-14 race likewise saw an early attack from Zak Bridges of Cardiff racing club. He quickly established a lead but then crashed and had to re-enter the race back in the chasing duo.

Zak attacked again to win but not far behind local Halesowen rider Jamieson Blain was showing just how competitive he isto come home in a bunch sprint around 12th place.

The U-16 race was fast right from the gun and Oliver Dighton from Halesowen had a rare off day.

The winner, Harry Hardcastle from the NE survived a crash with the pick of the Midland's riders being Ben Hardwicke and Will Lewis from Wolverhampton closely followed by Jake Stewart and Ben Healey from Solihull.

Hennessy is happy with Palace spot

FORMER Wolves goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey says he knows about interest from Albion – but insists he remains happy at Crystal Palace.

Baggies boss Tony Pulis is keen to be reunited with the Wales international, who he took to Selhurst Park in January 2014.

But the 28-year-old is insisting publicly that he wants to stay with the Eagles and battle with Julian Speroni for the No.1 jersey despite a frustrating time last season.

"I've had people telling me about interest from West Brom," said Hennessey.

"I've got two years left at Palace so I'm happy. I played the last couple of games so hopefully I can start next season.

"My season didn't start very well. I'd have liked to have been playing, but I've kept myself right."

Mongan destroys opponents

TWO destructive performances from James Mongan saw him crowned Three Nations Schools champion with a pair of first round stoppages, *writes Craig Birch.*

The 13-year-old traveller, the country's best for his age at 40kg, travelled to Swansea to represent his country at the weekend in formidable form.

As the host nation, Wales got two picks to make up the semi-finals and Mongan, who boxes out of Priory Park in Dudley, took the pair of them out.

First, on Saturday, he made Shaun Brown quit on his stool at the end of the first round, after a relentless barrage of pressure.

Brown had his head rocked back with flurries of

punches before his corner, examining their fighter at the end of the round, pulled him out.

Then, on Sunday, a lovely screw shot saw a right uppercut sink Scott Burgess to the canvas, at just the midway point of the opening session.

Burgess had to answer a standing eight count from the shot but was in trouble again from Mongan's quick-fire attacks, forcing the referee to step in.

Mongan is now waiting to find out whether he will follow his older brother Jerry, who won a 54kg Schools national title last year, into the autumn's European Championships.

Trainer Warren Davies said: "I think it will be a

couple of weeks before they let us know, so we will keep James ticking over until then.

"Our gym is actually closed, at the minute, as it's being refurbished, so we are getting James in where we can and then taking him out for sparring.

"If he's not picked, James will have a break. He deserves one, because he's done well this year, but the Euros would be a great experience for him.

"The kid can do anything, he can fight and box. The first lad was supposed to be a slick southpaw and it took James no time at all to figure him out.

"He couldn't have done any more to impress the selectors, with two first round stoppages. He was throwing powerful shots at angles for fun."

Stalwart throws himself into judo

DUDLEY Judo Club is going from strength to strength as it settles into its new home.

And you don't have to look very far to find the driving force behind the growing list of achievements – chairman and chief instructor Alan Hackett.

The 51-year-old from Gornal is one of those unsung heroes who dedicate their time to helping others.

He has been involved with the club for 35 years having started out as a competitor aged 16.

And in between instructing Dudley's talented youngsters he is still finds time to compete for GB Masters and in various events up and down the country.

But his main focus is looking after the youngsters that flood through the doors of their new base at the Conservative Club in Upper Gornal.

"I have been competing and instructing for so long now that it has just become part of my life," said Hackett, who is a fourth dan black belt.

"I probably dedicate 25-30 hours a week to the club. People ask me what my motivation is and the answer is simple – to keep kids off the streets and away from drugs.

Discos

"This gives them something to do and something to focus on. It's more than just a judo club, we have a really strong social side with discos and regular events.

"We are going from strength to strength as a club and now have 22 juniors and 15 adults competing all over the country.

"We have just moved our training venue to the Conservative Club in Upper Gornal after 33 years at Upper Gornal Recreation Centre.

"It's roughly the same size but it's a better facility and hopefully the move will help the club grow even more."

The list of success on the mat has certainly grown with the club clocking up a healthy medal count this year.

Hackett's charges have already taken 15 gold, 11 silver and 19 bronze medals from competitions around the country with the promise of more to come.

The quality of coaching from Hackett and his fellow instructors Ben Foye, Lisa McLenghan and Lee Elgton is further highlighted by the fact that



Some of the club's members show off their medals from left, Luke Jones (bronze, Jordan Worwood (silver), Philippa Butcher(gold) and Loren Willets (bronze)

youngsters Danny Harris, aged 16, Tom Ralph, 16, Megan Davies, 14, Amy Gettings, 14, Charlotte Smith, 15, Kira McLenghan, 15, all train with the GB squad in Walsall each week.

And Hackett is quick to praise the support he receives as he continues to clock up the hours.

"The backing and support I receive from the other instructors, members of the club and the parents of the children involved is fantastic," he said. "If I want

or need something doing there is always someone willing to help." Bill Harris is Hackett's trusted right-hand man and vice chairman and, as a qualified accountant, takes care of the club's books.

"Everywhere the kids compete, I go and watch and so does Bill," said Hackett.

The family feel to the club is strengthened by the fact Hackett's wife, Annette, helps out along with his daughter, Natasha and stepson, Tom Stanaway.

Fox is fairly confident Benteke will stay at Villa

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Tom Fox is 'fairly certain' Christian Benteke will stay at Villa after confirming the striker will be offered a new contract.

The Belgium hitman's future is the subject of fervent speculation, with boss Tim Sherwood having revealed a release clause of £32.5million in the 24-year-old's current deal, which has two years left to run.

Benteke's agent Eric Kismet has claimed the striker wants to play for a club who have qualified for Europe next season but Fox is hopeful Villa can stave off the suitors and keep a player who scored 12 goals in his final 13 games of the campaign.

"We are obviously going to offer him (Benteke) a new contract in the summer," said Fox. "He's a fantastic player and one of the top strikers in the Premier League and I think he is someone who is recognised around the world as one of the top strikers.

"His goals in the second half of the season were fundamental to us staying up.

"He has got a good relationship with everyone at the club. I know him and Tim have a great working relationship, so our hope is we can keep him. I haven't had any conversations with him.

"I know he's got two years left on his deal as a starting point, so I am fairly certain we can have him back next year if we want."

Fox hopes Benteke, who is currently away on international duty with Belgium, will follow the example of Villa captain Fabian Delph who committed his own future to the club by signing a four-and-half year deal in January."

Delight as Edwards is promoted

ROB EDWARDS is 'delighted and humbled' to be promoted to Wolves' first-team coach after just a year in charge of the club's under-18s.

The former Molineux defender rejoined the club as under-18s coach last summer, having retired from playing in 2013.

The former Welsh international enjoyed a successful first season, leading the team to six straight wins at one stage – a run that included beating Manchester United and Manchester City.

Edwardssaid: "I'm delighted and humbled to be given the opportunity to work alongside Kenny Jackett, Joe Gallen, the rest of the first team staff and the players. I'm pleased the head coach wants to take me as part of his staff and I'm looking forward to being able to help."



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Sherwood closes in on his first deal

TIM SHERWOOD was closing in on his first signing as Villa boss with Micah Richards set to reject Albion, Sunderland and a host of other clubs to join the FA Cup finalists.

The former Manchester City right-back, who spent last season on loan with Serie A club Fiorentina, is a free agent after leaving the Etihad Stadium.

Richards, 26, is a 13-time England international and won two league titles, the FA Cup and the League Cup with City, but last featured for Manuel Pellegrini's side in a home defeat to Wigan in March 2014.

Meanwhile, Villa captain Fabian Delph has urged Christian Benteke to follow his lead – but told Jack Grealish to let his heart decide his international future.

Delph insists he will not try and twist the arm of his 19-year-old claret and blue team-mate when it comes to choosing his international future.

Grealish, who starred in Villa's late season revival, is yet to decide whether to commit his international future to England or the Republic of Ireland.

The Birmingham-born midfielder has appeared for Ireland at youth level but turned down the chance to join up with Martin O'Neill's most recent squad.

And Delph, currently away with the Three Lions squad ahead of Sunday's Euro 2016 qualifier with Slovenia, says it is a decision Grealish must make for himself.

"I'll leave that to him," said Delph. "He's represented Ireland in the younger age groups but it's his decision. I won't be one to put pressure on him."

The Villa skipper is hopeful Benteke will follow his example and sign a new deal at Villa Park.

Delph put pen to paper on a new four-and-a-half year contract in January.

Saido learning from mistakes, says Southgate

ENGLAND Under-21s boss Gareth Southgate has paid tribute to Saido Berahino's growing maturity.

Southgate has hailed the Baggies' striker for learning from mistakes as the pair gear up for the Young Lions' 2015 tournament in the Czech Republic.

England complete their preparations with a friendly at Barnsley tonight against Belarus with Berahino hoping to recapture the form that saw him hit 10 goals in qualifying.

And ahead of England opening their campaign with a game against Portugal, Southgate has praised Berahino's off-field improvements.

The 21-year-old's early career has been dogged by controversy including newspaper stories about inhaling a 'legal high', a dressing-room bust-up with team-mate James Morrison and a road ban for drink-driving.

But Southgate said: "We are lucky. It's a bit like having grandkids as you can give them back at the end of 10 days so we get less of those issues that club managers have to deal with. But he has been a pleasure to work with."

DK runners are spoiled for choice

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club were spoilt for choice at the weekend with plenty of opportunities, distances, terrains and also against two legged and four-legged competition.

Helen Tromans was first out of the blocks tackling the Newport Carnival 10k, but with the weather making it slippery underfoot conditions were certainly not conducive to fast times. Despite the conditions DK's top female marathon runner still claimed 65th overall and first in her age group with 44.04.

Further afield a group of six runners, making up two relay teams, travelled to Llanwrtyd Wells

Athletics

in mid Wales to compete in the annual Man v Horse event, a 22 mile race cooked up in a pub more than 35 years ago as a bet.

This year's field of individual runners, relay teams and horses which totalled more than 900 entrants showed it's still going strong. The DK A team of Dave Norman, Andy Sprague and James Wright claimed fifth place in a total time of 2.47.50 and the B team of Richard Bate, Stuart Tromans and Mick Quane were only a place behind in 2.53.28.

Twenty four hours later a group travelled north to Stoke on Trent for the Potters Arf, a half marathon finishing in Hanley.

Matt Biggs was first back in a ninth place in 1.20.29, Darran Bishop claimed 37th place in 1.25.42, Mark Judge finished in 1.35.11 in 144th place. Graham Wildgoose was 192nd in 1.37.34, Andy Fraser was 798th in 2.00.38 and Andy Morrison came home in 2.03.09 in 1,488th. There was also a strong presence of blue hoops in Liverpool for another half marathon with Darren Judge clocking 1.52.50, Steve Rubery finishing in 1.56.13, Lisa Kendrick in 1.58.40, Suzi Geraghty in 2.02.28 and Charlotte Tonks in 2.17.36.

Wolves will suck up the pressure

WOLVES will embrace the pressure – that was the message from Molineux as the bookies named them among the Championship title favourites.

Wolves are the fourth most-fancied team with many bookmakers after narrowly missing the play-offs last season.

Derby, Hull, Middlesbrough and Burnley join Wolves as the pre-season promotion favourites.

And managing expectations among success-hungry Wolves fans has been a problem for past Molineux managers.

But head of football development and recruitment Kevin Thelwell, who is eyeing up the club's summer transfers, said it was a 'privilege' for the club to have such lofty expectations.

"We work for a big club – and when you work for a big club enough is never enough," he said. "If we were to get promoted to the Premier League we'd have to stay in the Premier League, if we stayed in the Premier League it'd be 'can you get to 12th', if we got to 12th we'd want to get in the top 10, if we got in the top 10 everyone would say, 'we're not that far off Europe are we?'."

"So you've got to embrace the pressure."

"And pressure is a bit of a privilege because there's not many clubs that have the opportunity to achieve what we could achieve."

Wolves will look to dip into the transfer market for some first-team additions over the coming weeks to boost their ranks.

He added: "There'll be pressure, it'll certainly be tough and it'll be made more difficult in terms of the teams coming into the league this year. There are some difficult teams coming up."

Promotion odds: Derby 8/1, Hull 8/1, Middlesbrough 9/1, Wolves 12/1, Burnley 12/1, Brentford 14/1.

Tivdale bag new principal sponsor

TIVIDALE have unveiled Buildbase as their new principal sponsor ahead of the 2015/16 Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division One South season.

The two-year deal will prove to be the most lucrative in Dale's 61-year history.

Buildbase's logo will feature on all first-team home and away shirts until the conclusion of the 2016/2017 campaign.

As part of the agreement, the builders merchants' branding will also feature on one of Tivdale Football Academy's teams, and extensive signage will also be seen around The Beeches until the summer of 2017.

HEATHENS SET FOR BIG CLASH

CRADLEY are preparing for the match of the season when they face fellow Perry Barr tenants Birmingham next Wednesday.

And with a tricky trip to Mildenhall on Sunday, boss Will Pottinger says it's a big part of the season.

Heathens are facing up to the remainder of the campaign without teenage star Nathan Greaves, who has suffered a badly broken leg.

They will use the rider replacement facility over the next two meetings with limited options for a new signing.

Said Pottinger: "These are arguably our two biggest tests and most important meetings of the season so far – both teams are up and around us towards the top of the league table and taking points off them and more importantly trying to make sure that our opponents go away from the meetings empty handed could prove even more important."

"Mildenhall have won all four of their home league matches so far so we know it will be tough but we want to go there and end that run."

Important

"We've had some pretty good results at West Row in our last few visits and it's important we go there with the belief we can pick up some more league points."

"But for me the biggest meeting of the year so far is when we host Birmingham next Wednesday."

"We had a disappointing meeting at the Fours but it's important we re-group quickly and pull together and work as a team."

"The Brummies have been flying at Perry Barr and hopefully with us having the advantage to set the track up how we want it, it will catch them out."

"They've got three riders who've been in excellent form in Adam Ellis, Zach Wajtknecht and a rider we all know well at Cradley, Tom Perry and that's where we need the likes of Max (Clegg) and Matt (Williamson) to really step up to the plate once again and give them a tough time."

"I'm sure there'll be another bumper crowd for this one but it's important that as many of our fans get to Perry Barr as possible to try and outnumber and outshout Birmingham."

Blue sky thinking on away kit



Wolves stars Dominic Irofa, Carl Ikeme and Nouha Dicko show their colours in Wolves' new away kit

THE electric blue strip has divided opinion among fans. Wolves fans have given a mixed reaction to the club's new light blue away kit.

The club took the wraps off the long-awaited design yesterday, with the kit going on sale this morning.

It is Wolves' first light blue kit since the 2000/01 season under Colin Lee and then Dave Jones, when Wolves finished 12th in the old First Division.

Light blue was the staple colour in the early 1990s but Wolves have since donned white, black, turquoise, green and even purple.

Fans went onto social media to have their say on the Puma design. More were positive than

against, with Sonnie Griffiths saying: "Yes – a better design. Prefer the collar on this one."

Zackary Haynes said: "I really like it, it's different. Only problem is we will only ever wear it like twice so is it worth buying?"

And Kayleigh Palmer added: "I like it, much nicer than the home kit."

"This one has a collar for start off."

Colin Peppiatt was pleased to see a return of light blue, which was the colour of choice for three Wolves away kits between 1990 and 1994, when Graham Turner was in charge.

He said: "Very happy to see light blue back. Light blue away kits were part of my childhood from 1990-1994."

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